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The Plate Number

and Great Americans Review

SEPTEMBER 1995

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VOLUME X, NO. 5

TPN closing down

By Stephen G. Esrati

The next issue of *TPN* will be the last.

I know no one who could take over because the basic requirements for putting out a magazine of this sort are:

- Unlimited spare time to meet the every-eight-weeks publishing schedule.
- Skills with desktop publishing.
- Philatelic knowhow.
- Deep pockets to run what I have always considered a no-profit magazine, but which probably has run at a considerable financial loss from its inception.
- A very thick skin to deflect criticism.
- Ingratitude (for not publishing the handful of praises). I always assumed that readers did not want to pay to read about what a great job I was doing.

The cost of getting out

All subscribers whose subscriptions extend beyond 1995 will receive a refund for the remainder of their subscription as well as a portion of postage fees if they paid for first-class mail. (See, Azzez, I did not capitalize your silly trademark!)

If your subscription expires with this issue (coded as 5-95 on the mailing label), you will receive the November issue at no cost. Should you wish to make a contribution to *TPN* to cover this free issue, a donation of \$4 will be gratefully accepted.

If your subscription expires with the last issue, you will not hear from me again.

All others will get a check (in Canadian funds for Canadian subscribers).

Not going out of business

I shall continue to sell plate number coils, PNC varieties, and Great Americans. I shall also continue writing for *Stamp Collector* and *Canadian Stamp News*.

All back issues of *TPN* will be available for at least a year. If you want to complete your library, write for an order blank now.

I shall also continue to publish the *Summary of Data on the Great Americans*, now in its sixth revision.

But why now?

The idea of giving up first sparked when I paid for the mailing of the first issue under the new postage rates. It wasn't just that the bulk rate went from 19.8 cents to 22.6 cents. Mailing the March 1995 issue cost \$163.85; the January issue (mailed in 1994)

cost only \$142.34.

Printing costs also went up, especially after I discovered that I could get PIP Printing to make the pictures look better.

By the time I put the May issue to bed, I knew I would lose about \$1,000 on *TPN* this year.

But that could be overlooked. What mattered was my health.

I had a heart attack in 1974 and started running (not "jogging" as Linn's insisted) to build up collateral circulation around the three arteries in my heart that were 100% blocked. I ran several half marathons and many 10-kilometer races. At one time, I was down to below an 8-minute mile. When I had the second heart attack in 1994, a strange thing happened when the Cleveland Clinic started looking inside my heart as I looked on.

When the catheter arrived at the first blockage and squirted dye, the dye went beyond the blockage! My cardiologist explained that the dye got past that barrier because of the capillaries I had built up from running.

But the time needed to put out *TPN* was

also cutting into my running. So one could argue that *TPN* was shortening my life expectancy. So when I told my wife in mid-June that I was giving up *TPN*, she responded with joy.

Now, I'll have no excuse for not running.

And what happens now?

I suppose that the Plate Number Coil Study Group will continue to add to our knowledge of PNCs. I may still work this up and submit it to other publications, preferably *Stamp Collector*.

Why not *Coil Line*? you may ask. Why should I? I've been told for years that the work of the study group was too technical, that what I printed in *TPN* was too specialized. I would not want to start boring all the poor souls who feel that way.

That means, the meat and potatoes will get into *Stamp Collector*, but the gravy may have to go to *The United States Specialist*, journal of the Bureau Issues Association.

I'll also publish a quarterly price list which will contain news. It will cost \$5 a year.



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ABOUT THAT HOLE ON PAGE 99

The empty space on Page 99 of the July issue should have been your clue to the fact that July's *TPN* was the most difficult issue I have ever put out.

It has not always been easy. There was the time I had the operation for what the doctors call a "Triple-A," an aneurism of the abdominal aorta. I did not believe I would survive. I wrote and printed a letter to each subscriber so my wife could rebate the unexpired portion of subscription payments. But the November 1991 issue was sent out on time and contained a skimpy 14 pages.

Then there was the heart attack in March 1994. Still, the May issue contained 22 pages and came out on time.

July 1995 was different. I had planned to take it to the printer June 13. But a death in the family occurred on June 9. I knew I would have little time for *TPN* in the coming days. I knew that I still had not seen the new Transportation coils. I knew I had left a space at the bottom of "Catalog Update" to bring it up to date.

But I took the pages to the printer that day. I had tried to fill the hole by offering Dr. Robert Rabinowitz a free ad, but he was too busy with his broken air conditioner and forgot to call back. I went to press "naked."

While I was away from Cleveland on June 10, Dr. Bob left a message on my answering machine: "The interval on the Ferryboat and the Cog Railway is 48, not the 24 we had been led to believe. You may wish to get *TPN* back from the printer."

But it was too late. I quickly printed a message that would fit on a label. But the damage had been done. *TPN* said that the interval was 24.

We got that information only from the false statement in the *Stamps, etc.* catalog that promised a plate number if one bought a strip of 25. We repeatedly called the folks at USPS Corporate Relations. But for reasons I cannot understand, the technical information on the stamps had not yet been sent out to philatelic journalists.

When I bitterly told Myron G. Hill, Jr., that the Postal Service had lied again, he quickly straightened me out:

"You keep saying that USPS lies," Hill, a lawyer, said. "But lying implies a desire to mislead. These people are not trying to do that. They just plain don't care. That isn't lying."

What is even more disturbing was a letter sent out on May 5 by Wolfgang Schön, publisher of the Lighthouse albums. It was received here at the time the July issue was being prematurely sent to press. (It's the first of our letters in this issue.)

Wolfgang, like Dr. Bob and Myron a member of the PNC Study Group, had been fooled by USPS' I-don't-care attitude.

"Single self-adhesives are sheet and/or pane stamps,"

Letters to the editor

All letters are welcome. *TPN* reserves the right to edit and condense letters, to print them as bylined articles, or to reject them. For the sake of efficiency, readers are urged to write to P.O. Box 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. *TPN* will forward letters to the proper authorities for replies. Unsigned replies are by Steve Esrati.

The Plate Number

and Great Americans Review

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Wolfgang wrote, "but decidedly not coil stamps. Even when these stamps are mechanically or manually separated as 'singles' and then stuck on suitable rolls of some sort of backing paper, they basically remain pane stamps and are by no means 'coil stamps.' As such, they do not belong in our PNC albums and you will, therefore, not find them in the Lighthouse PNC album supplements."

I immediately called Wolfgang and then faxed him the information George Amick had dug up for the 1994 *Linn's U.S. Stamp Yearbook*. Amick proved what USPS did not care about: Self-adhesive coils are printed on separate plates.

USPS, of course, has been selling them right along (except for the Love Cherubs, which, we are now told, were never printed). But USPS never told Corporate Relations, so no technical information on coils is ever made public. Corporate Relations, like Wolfgang, even denied that self-adhesive coils exist.

We managed to get some of that into the July issue (the short editorial on the bottom of Page 94), but now we must hold our breaths until Wolfgang's supplements are published.

THE END OF TPN!

My health and my age (68) do not permit me to continue the grueling pace of an every-eight-weeks publication schedule.

Accordingly, I shall cease publication of *TPN* after the next (November 1995) issue. All subscribers who have paid for issues beyond November will receive a refund of their excess subscription and postage payments.

I want to thank a whole lot of people for making possible this 10-year adventure in personal philatelic journalism. I shall do so in the next issue.

I would like also to mention that the personal feuds, including arrows shot my way, have been an unpleasant by-product of what should have been nothing but fun.

I shall not wait eight weeks to tell Al Cibulskas, Jerry Clark, Kim Cuniberti, and Ken Lawrence that their help made *TPN* possible. I cannot thank the information specialists at USPS. I wish I could.

Steve Esrati

LETTERS:

Self-adhesive coils simply cannot be called coils, Lighthouse decides

In the past, we differentiated three kinds of stamps, viz.:

1. Sheet stamps
2. Booklet pane stamps
3. Coil stamps (perforated or rouletted on two opposite sides)

But nowadays we have a fourth kind, i.e.:

4. Self-adhesive stamps

These are printed in sheet or booklet-pane form.

TPN reply: This letter was written before publication of Linn's 1994 U.S. Stamp Yearbook, in which George Amick revealed that USPS had ordered printing of whole plates of coil stamps. Until then, it was believed that at the bottom of each plate for panes there was one row of coil stamps.

Early self-adhesive coils, which were printed as a single row of stamps at the bottom of a plate for panes, did not carry plate numbers. These included the 29¢ Red Squirrel, the 29¢ Rose, and the three types of 29¢ Eagle and Shield. Still, these numberless coils differed from stamps from panes because they had selvaige around each stamp to allow extraction as singles. To date, it has proven impossible to remove a self-adhesive stamp and attempt to apply it to liner to "produce" coil singles. The stamps always curl.

After the advent of simulated perforations, the self-adhesive coils can also be detected because they have no "perfs" on two sides (at least until the Pink Rose was produced with perforations on all four sides). And, of course, coil stamps with plate numbers are different from pane stamps without numbers.

Single self-adhesives are sheet or pane stamps, but decidedly not coil stamps! As such, they do not belong in our PNC albums and you will, therefore, not find them in the Lighthouse PNC Album supplements but only in the regular U.S. album

Wolfgang Schön
Lighthouse Publications
Aumühle, Germany

TPN reply: As soon as this letter arrived, TPN faxed Wolfgang a copy of the review of Amick's book from the July issue of TPN.

A few days later, TPN was sent a reply to Wolfgang from David C. Akin, the new issues editor of Scott Publishing Co.

Scott Publishing's reply to Wolfgang

With regard to self-adhesive "coil" strips. In most cases a stamp from such a strip is indistinguishable from a booklet stamp, once the two stamps are removed from the backing.

Once the U.S. Postal Service began placing plate numbers on these strips, they became PNCs in the eyes of many American collectors, much to the delight of the USPS. While they may not be true coil strips, they are collected as such, and collectors have voiced their desire to have them included in our PNC supplements. For the last two years, Scott has responded to these requests and included spaces for self-adhesive strips in our PNC supplements.

David C. Akin
Sidney, Ohio

Pedro's World of PNCs

by Pedro Ortegón, M.D.



Ugh! Overall tanning! Not only immoral, but think what UV will do to her skin!

Take my name off!

Please remove my name as an associate editor of TPN. I don't anticipate contributing more articles in the future.

Alan Malakoff

via America Online

TPN reply: You have dug up priceless data in the past through your closely guarded "private sources."

Among your best finds were:

- The report (May 1994) that a 30¢ Pumpkinseed Sunfish coil had been planned when the Postal Service asked for a 30¢ first-class rate.

- The printing totals for self-adhesive coil stamps (also May 1994), which were still missing from the official USPS report for 1994 that we published in the last issue.

- Your report (July 1994) that there is a special clerk in the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center to handle dealers' orders. Only later did we learn that the cave has rules that a "dealer" is anyone who orders 40 or more FDCs.

- Your scoop (July 1994) that some "G" stamps from Stamp Venturers would have back numbers and that there would be what eventually turned out to be a 25¢ first-class presort "G" stamp that was sold only to collectors.

- Another scoop (September 1994) that the F Press was in production.

- Your successful Freedom of Information Act suit (March 1995) against the Postal Service for missing BEF plate-activity reports. These data, which cost you \$500, were incomplete. For reasons only you know, you did not want anyone to know that you paid \$500. I took the amount out of your bylined TPN article but I forgot to kill it in an article I submitted to Stamp Collector. This irritated you, and I apologized. You wrote nothing for TPN since. [And TPN contributed \$150 toward that \$500.]

Meanwhile, you announced on the Internet that you and Jerry Clark are planning to publish a catalog of self-adhesive panes.

TPN and its readers will miss your digging.

P.S. I sent you a copy of this response and you objected to its publication, calling your resignation a personal communication. The rule of thumb is that unless a journalist is told in advance that information is off the record, telling anything to a journalist is considered as putting it on the record. I do not know why readers should not know.

Two new tagging breaks

I have acquired two PNCs with tagging breaks not reported previously:

- T5CW-1-ot, Paper IIIIn [The overall-tagged 5¢ Circus Wagon]—Break is at 4R but creeps to 5R in the roll of 500. There is also a hairline untagged flaw at 10R. The break moves to the right 1.5mm in each interval of 52.

In reply (by Gene Ernst): T5CW-1-ot has been reported with tagging breaks at 4R and 5R, but not as a creeper.

In reply (by Steve Esrati): This is the first report of this phenomenon on Paper IIIIn.

- T17EA-1 and 2, Paper I: [Plates 1 and 2 of the 17¢ Electric Auto]—A partial clip (top) at 2L and a flawed partial clip (top) at 14L on a PNC strip with very flawed overall tagging. A tagging break on Plates 1 and 2 has not been previously reported on Paper I, only on Paper II.

A. Stanley Hietala
Tower, Minn.

In reply (by Gene Ernst after the writer reported this as a screw top tagging break): What you have is a clip top on the perfs at 2L. The clip is not always a perfect square. I note the catalog values of these strips are \$45 to \$50. I personally believe the price should be in the \$15 to \$20 range.

Tale of a disappearing counting number

A collector recently franked a letter to me with counting numbers on the back of a strip of three of the 10¢ Auto. When I soaked the envelope to remove the strip, the counting number appeared in reverse on the envelope and normally on the stamp.

But, to my surprise, the numbers evaporated into thin air on both as I watched, a fantastic act of legerdemain by the clever magicians at USPS.

A. Stanley Hietala

Bigwigs spoil first day

The new ECA-GARD "Quick-Post" vending machines are in place in some of the post offices around here and they have the shiny gum and the new font.

I missed the first day of sale because the bigwigs from Washington, who were training the postal personnel decided to let the consumer use them three days ahead of schedule, which made me very frustrated.

The machines are set for a maximum of 50 stamps per transaction.

I also found out that the cutting mechanism is very sensitive and quickly cuts the stamps if there is any obstruction in the dispensing slot. Then it will wait five seconds

and try again and again in the same manner until that particular order is completed.

Ershad Mansur
Ben Salem, Pa.

The only source

Your publication is the only source I know with such extensive coverage of U.S. stamps. Please extend this coverage to all U.S. stamps, not just coils and Great Americans.

And don't say, "Get *Linn's*." I already receive it!
Randall C. Tobin
Angola, La.

In reply: In view of this issue's lead story, the writer's encouragement must fall on deaf ears. But thanks for the compliment.

Is this a CC1 square?

I'm sending you a block of 5¢ Luis Muñoz Marins. I don't know if the small square is a CC1 square or not, but it does have white space between it and the end of the selvage.

Also, please look at it under a strong magnifier and tell me what the little white lines are in the square.

Ken Moreau
Franklin, Mass.

In reply: You are looking at one component of a crow's foot, which is similar in purpose to electric-eye marks.

The dotted pattern you see under magnification is in the nature of printing, which never allows a completely solid batch of ink (except in offset lithography) and always uses a fine pattern.



Earlier EKU reported

The 1995 Plate Number Coil Catalog lists the earliest known usage of T5.5-1, the tagged 5.5¢ Star Route Truck, as Jan. 20, 1987. I have a strip of four showing a Dec. 19, 1986, cancel.

Randy Manuel
Burlington, Ont., Canada

In reply: And why not? The stamps were issued Nov. 1, 1986.

Public to get self-stick coils

After the first-day ceremony for the United Nations' 50th anniversary, I had the opportunity to have a brief chat with A zeczaly Jaffer.

He said self-adhesive coils would be available for public consumption by the end of this year with liner and that linerless coils would be available by the end of 1996.

He mentioned roll size of 100, 500, and 3,000, but I'm not sure if all are to be available at first.

In reply: This is the first report we've had that coils would be sold outside the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center, but we knew about the linerless coils. See our report on Page 116.

What are these marks?

A series of green, pink, and black marginal markings have been found along the bottom of the back of the Pink Rose self-adhesive coil.

BLACK GREEN PINK GREEN

There are a total of 13 different marks in five different groups.

The ones that may be of most interest are those that occur on the back of the plate-numbered strip of five.

Viewing through the stamp side, there is a green rectangle below the LL of the numbered stamp, a pink rectangle below the LR of the numbered stamp, a black rectangle below the stamp to the right of the numbered stamp, and another green rectangle below the next stamp to the right.

Why did they put the squiggle "perfs" on all four sides of the Rose "coil" stamp?

Doug Iams
San Jose, Calif.

In reply (by Steve Esrati): I'm so glad you asked!

- Why did they reissue the 10¢ Tractor Trailer as a graded stamp when they couldn't sell it, no matter how few were in the vault?

- Why did Azeezaly Jaffer try to peddle Marilyn Monroe errors (to collectors only) with "shadow perforations"? Collectors call them blind perfs and usually shun them.

- Why does the 55¢ Hamilton have two plate numbers to the pane?

- Why did the Postal Service reprint 25¢ undenominated Juke Boxes when it had tons of 25¢ Undenominated "G" stamps which it sold only to collectors?

The answer to these and dozens of similar questions is that nobody in the Postal Service knows anything about philately and couldn't care less. The object is to sell as many stamps as possible. At first the target was "casual collectors," but the gun is now being turned on "serious collectors."

How the Ferryboat lost its 'F'

Why did you list the 32¢ Ferryboat as T32-2 while you listed the 20¢ Cog Railway as T20CR-1? Shouldn't the Ferryboat get an "F"?

Bernard L. Friedman, M.D.
Rochester, N.Y.

In reply: In our numbering system, the letter is only needed when there is more than one design for a denomination in a series. Thus all 20¢ Transportation coils need letters to tell them apart (FP=Fire Pumper; CC=Cable Car; CR=Cog Railway). But the Ferryboat is the first (and possibly the last) 32¢ Transportation coil. It doesn't need a letter.

Are these die cuts different?

Has anyone noticed the different die cut that I have seen on the Peaches and Pear self adhesive V22221? It reminds me of the cuts on the brown Eagle and Shield self adhesive (TPN, July, Page 106). Where the cut lines intersect, there is a four-sided squarish "dimple." I have not seen it on the other five numbers of the Peaches and Pear.

Jim Fowler
via the Internet

In reply: Here is another example where different terminology hides meaning. When Doug Iams first described the two kinds of die cuts on self-adhesive panes, he said when the die cuts are aligned, they are slightly curved, causing a tiny hole at the intersection. Is this the "dimple" the reader refers to?

Good, meaningful research

After what I thought was a false alarm a year or so ago, I thought we would have you around forever, digging up information, getting people interested and working together, leaving behind a terrific amount of good, meaningful research.

I will not be around, but I'll bet my bound set of TPN will fetch a good price at a philatelic literature auction sometime.

Pedro Ortegon, M.D.
Bedford, Ind.



Page 99—In the "New PNCs" section of Catalog Update, we completely missed the new bulk-mail stamps. They are listed in Catalog Update in this issue.

For the American Culture, American Transportation, and American Scenes stamps, we are abandoning the strict adherence to the series and are lumping them all as a series starting with "A" followed by the denomination in numerical order. That avoids having the 25¢ Juke Box (AC25) ahead of the 10¢ Auto (AT10).

Page 2 of the Summary of Data on the Great Americans—We listed a 10¢ Red Cloud from Plate 2 with overall tagging and untagged selvage. The stamps have tagged selvage. The table of Red Cloud varieties on Page 7 was also in error.

WANT A NOVEMBER TPN?

If the box next to the mailing label is checked, you will receive the November issue free. A voluntary \$4 contribution would be appreciated.

Phosphor or overall? The answers

By Gene Paquette

Overall tagging (OV)

Overall tagging is an inclusive name for any stamps that are completely tagged by coating the stamps' surface with taggant after the stamp has been printed. This would include the earlier types (I, II, IIa, III, and OP) as well as present stamps that are tagged over the printing.

OV tagging is produced by applying the taggant with a roller over the printed stamps' image. The Giori sheet-fed, three-color intaglio press is the exception. It uses flat mats to apply the taggant by offset.

OV taggant is, therefore, on top of the stamps' printed image.

The selva of OV-tagged stamps may be either tagged or untagged depending on the width of the tagging roller. This new, more descriptive term was needed to simplify the understanding of embedded tagging (ET), and surface tagging (ST) in comparison with OV.

Single OV, ST, and ET stamps appear to be all the same under UV light, but they can be separated.

Differentiating between ET and ST is covered along with their definitions under AP (Added to Paper) tagging.

Separating OV stamps from AP (AP includes ET and ST tagging) can be done, but it's not always easy.

Dull tagged copies on bright paper are the most difficult. OV blocks of stamps with any untagged selva cannot be AP. AP stamps always have tagged selva.

All that's needed to separate OV and AP stamps is a UV lamp, a soft vinyl eraser, and an 8-power magnifying glass.

Be aware that not all UV lamps are equal. You must use short-wave UV to see tagging. Any spurious light that is not filtered out by the special glass on your lamp will cause you problems, particularly when you're viewing an item on fluorescent bright paper. The spurious light causes the bright paper to glow, which can mask weak tagging. I use a battery-powered Scott Micro and a Raytech LS 88 for my short-wave UV. Both work well.

For an example of OV tagging, use Scott 2178, the 15¢ Cody from Plate 2. It comes with the selva tagged and untagged.

For an example of ET tagging, use Scott 2609, the 29¢ Flag over the White House (PNC F29WH), or Scott 2182, the 23¢ Cassatt from Plate 3.

Gene Paquette is a specialized dealer in U.S. stamps whose detailed price lists are close to a specialized catalog. This excerpt is from the price list he is preparing for next year after a 4 1/2-year absence from the hobby.

For ST, use Scott 2115b, the 22¢ test coil (PNC F22T), or Scott 2178, the 15¢ Cody from Plate 1 (Plate 1 also exists with block tagging, which shouldn't be a problem in separating it from the OV tagged).

On AP tagging, the printing is over, or on top of, the prephosphored paper. The taggant's glow under UV light will, therefore, be obscured in heavily inked areas.

OV tagging is applied on top of the printing so it will be visible, although it is sometimes masked by the darkness of the printing ink in heavily inked areas.

The safe tests

Compare an OV and an AP stamp where the UV light strikes both copies perpendicularly. The OV copy will appear to be completely covered with a green haze, even in heavily inked areas. Now, to confirm these differences, compare the two copies while they are held parallel to the UV light's rays. That is, the stamps will be held with their top edge toward the lamp. This accentuates the green tagging haze over the heavily inked areas of the OV stamp and makes the AP heavily inked areas appear darker.

If the above doesn't work, cut a small lens-shaped hole in a 2-inch square of

thick paper. The size of the hole should be small enough to view only one very heavily inked area on a stamp. Now place the viewing hole over the most heavily inked area on the stamp. The less white paper showing through the hole the better. When looking through the viewing hole under UV light, the AP will look very dark because most of the taggant in the paper is covered by the ink; whereas the OV stamp will show a green haze.

The destructive test

OV and AP stamps with dull tagging and bright fluorescent papers are harder to separate from each other. If the above procedure fails, the following will work, but this procedure is destructive and you'll need a pair (or more) because the stamp you will be checking will be damaged.

Taking your soft vinyl eraser, lightly rub a moderately inked spot on your AP and OV stamps about 10 times. Don't use a heavily inked spot as it will mask your results. Now check both copies under UV light. The tagging on the OV stamp will be rubbed off without much change in the stamp's underlying ink. Confirm no damage to the underlying ink with your 8-power glass.

The AP stamp will show very little or no difference in the taggant's brilliance where you rubbed it as long as you don't erase the inked image.

If the difference is not apparent after the first rubbing, repeat on each stamp until it is apparent. The only way for the taggant to be dulled on the AP copy is if you rub through the ink and the paper's surface on ST copies. ET copies' tagging glow will not be affected by erasing the surface.

Practice on spare, cheap copies before you tackle your better stamps.

Any OV blocks with untagged selva can't be AP-type tagging. Also, any untagged gap lines on a stamp or in the selva eliminates it as AP tagging.

Earlier tagging types

Type I—Stamps tagged by four rubber mats mounted on one cylinder. Gaps exist between mats. Not applicable to PNCs or Great Americans.

Type II—Stamps tagged by a cylinder with continuous rubber coating. Only the wide selva is partly untagged (as in some Great Americans). Plate blocks have only one untagged margin.

Type IIa—Same as Type II except that a wider roller was used. All margins are fully tagged. These produced overall-tagged Great Americans we have difficulty in distinguishing from prephosphored stamps.

Type III—Stamps are tagged by two blank steel plates mounted on one cylinder. All margins of sheet stamps are normally tagged. However, the two plate butt joints left untagged gaps and hot lines (brightly tagged lines). The edges of the steel plates embossed the paper with two closely spaced lines that are physically the same as the joint lines from the Cottrell press and can be seen with normal light. The embossed effect does not apply to PNCs or Great Americans.

Tagging added to paper (AP)

There are two types of AP taggant:

ST = Surface taggant (phosphor-coated paper)

ET = Embedded taggant (prephosphored paper)

To understand their differences, some background about the printing of paper will help.

Paper is made from a slurry called "stuff." The stuff is spread over a wire-

screen moving belt. Next, water is drained by suction, forming a flat, thin pulp sheet.

A Dandy roller then presses the paper, giving it the desired texture, such as wove paper. Watermarks can also be applied by the Dandy roller.

The paper web is then pressed, dried, sized, and finished. Finishing includes coatings with taggant, glazing, etc.

The taggant is added during the finishing steep for ST paper (surface taggant, or phosphor-coated paper). The coating in this type of tagging is very thin, or just on the paper's surface.

For ET paper (embedded taggant, or prephosphored paper) starch, or other binders, plus taggant are added in the sizing step to the paper's top surface to bind the rough fibers together. The sizing and taggant penetrates about two-thirds of the way down through the paper's thickness. The taggant added during sizing produces embedded-taggant paper. This means the taggant for embedded-taggant paper goes down much deeper into the paper than it does on phosphor-coated paper. The taggant, however, is not dispersed throughout the paper. It would have to be mixed with the stuff for tagging to be found throughout the paper.

The two AP tagging types can be differentiated best by lightly scratching the stamp's top surface with a sharp-pointed X-Acto knife. Under UV, an ST paper will appear untagged where you scratched. With ET stamps, the scratch will not show under UV unless you go deeper by repeated scratches.

This method is best used on a spare piece of selvage or on a used copy since the paper will be damaged.

As of May 1995, you can also separate the two types by whether the paper is mottled or uniform on one-color intaglio printings.

This may not, however, be true for future issues.

The mottled vs. uniform tagging method is discussed below.

Differentiating between OV copies and ST or ET copies is covered under OV tagging.

Embedded Taggant (ET)—The taggant is added along with the binders during sizing in the manufacture of paper. It penetrates about two-thirds down into the stamp's paper from its surface. When the stamp's surface is scratched lightly with a knife, the scratch does not show up as untagged under UV light. Repeated light scratches will go deep enough to show as an untagged gap. All one-color, intaglio-engraved issues with mottled tagging are ET as of May 1995. Gravure and offset printings can have either uniform or mottled ET tagging. Examples of ET are: Scott 2812, 29¢ Murrow; Scott 2609, 29¢ Flag over White House (PNC F29WH), or Scott 2182, 23¢ Cassatt Plate 3.

Surface Taggant (ST)—The taggant is added to the paper's coating during the final finishing step of paper manufacture. The taggant is only a thin surface coating, which only penetrates slightly into the stamp's paper. When the paper's surface is lightly scratched with a knife, the scratch will appear untagged under UV light. All one-color, intaglio-engraved stamps with ST have even, uniform tagging as of May 1995. Gravure or offset stamps can have either mottled or uniform ST tagging. Examples of ST are Scott 2115b, 22¢ Test coil (PNC F22T), and Scott 2178, 15¢ Cody Plate 1 (Plate 1 also has block tagging, which is easy to identify and eliminate from comparisons).

Like 5¢ Circus Wagons

Red in 'G' stamps has 2 types

By Scott F. Smith

McMURDO SOUND, Little America—I was going though all my plate numbers of American Bank Note's "G" coils recently and found two different colors of the red inks used to print the stripes in the flag.

These differences are visible under shortwave and longwave ultraviolet light. [Editor's note: The difference in shortwave UV was so slight that it was hard to detect.]

They are most noticeable under longwave UV. One red ink is plain and the other is fluorescent, similar to the fluorescent red ink used on the ABN's 5¢ Circus Wagon from Plate A3.

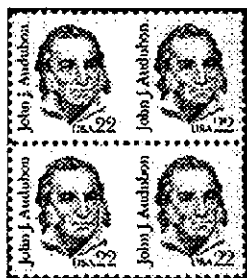
Below is a listing by plate number of which numbers have which red inks in my collection.

Fluorescent Red	Dark Red
A1111	A1324
A1112	A1417
A1211	A1433
A1212	A3113
A1222	A3114
A1311	A3314
A1313	A3315
A1314	A3323
A2211	A3324
A2212	A3423
A2213	A3426
A2214	A3433
A2223	A3435
A2313	A3436
Nonprofit G A21111	A4426
	A4427
	A4435
	A5327
	A5417
	A5427
	A5437

The stamp with the plate-number combination A5437 seems to be on a different paper than its counterparts. The paper is whiter. It has a fuller, smoother more complete, greener tagging under shortwave UV.

I would love to hear more from others about their plate numbers with and without fluorescent red inks. I can be reached in Antarctica by e-mail at Plumbr06.McMurdo@McMurdo.gov

Editor's note: Smith is a member of the PNC Study Group. TPN did not fill in his chart with other values in hopes that readers will report his numbers with the other color or the missing numbers in both colors.



SPECIAL OFFER

22¢ Audubon, L Perforations, imperforate between.
What appears to be a vertical row of blind perms runs just to the right of the second "2" of the left stamp.

Pair, \$20; block of 4, \$40.

STEVE ESRATI

(216) 561-9393 of FAX (216) 561-6030

ATM precursors had PNCs

The following article concerns the 25¢ Flag over Yosemite. One carrier is illustrated on Page 1-33 of the 1995 PNC Catalog. The catalog says they are block tagged.

By Jim Noll
and Frank Norulak

When the 25¢ Flag ATM sheetlet was issued on May 18, 1990, for a six-month test period in Seattle, Wash., 1988 Equibank of Pittsburgh, Pa., already had 18 months of experience dispensing stamps through its ATMs (Automatic Teller Machines).

Equibank began its "Stamp Stop" program in December 1988 using nine Flag Over Yosemite stamps on each carrier, which sold at face for the convenience of customers, but at a great loss to the bank.

The stamps were sold as one, two, or three carriers in one transaction, or 9, 18, or 27 stamps at a time.

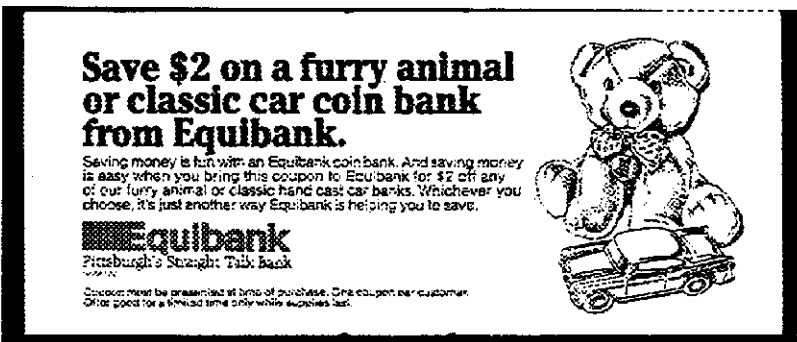
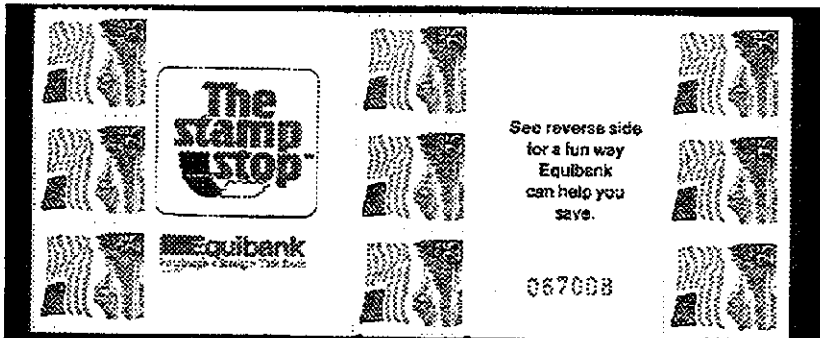
The carriers were in the size of a dollar and were printed by a California firm using Equibank information and promotional advertising. Stamps were affixed to the carriers by lightly moistening the left and right edge of each strip of three stamps and affixing them to the carrier. This work is believed to have been performed by workers from a charitable group, presumably at minimum wage. As the three stamp strips were taken from large rolls, several carriers exist with PNCs.

Stamps were originally provided through 43 ATMs with expansion planned to 40 more machines. The three-strip arrangement was required so that the carriers could travel through the ATM. The driving rollers feeding the carrier used the spaces between stamp strips to feed them to customers.

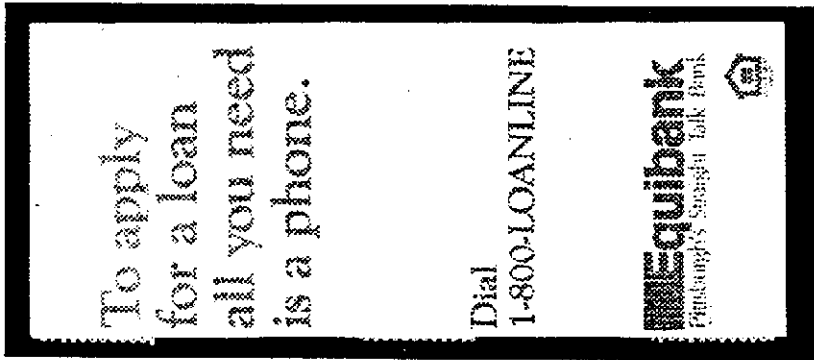
The ATMs used were Fujitsu model 6000s that were equipped with dispenser cassettes that can hold up to 3,000 carriers or pieces of currency.

To date we have identified six types of carriers. There may be others that are still unknown. They are shown as Figs. 1 to 6. On carriers that have plain backs, the back is not shown.

- Type 1. Red and blue, horizontal, Stamp Stop and Equibank logos and six-digit control number on front; Teddy Bear on back. Stamps are block tagged.
- Type 2. Red, vertical, Stamp Stop and Equibank logos and a six-digit control number preceded by an "N" on front; 1-800-Loanline on back. Stamps are block tagged.
- Type 3. Red, vertical, two Stamp Stop logos and a four-digit control number pre-



CUTE AND CUDDLY—Front and back of horizontal Type 1. "The Stamp Stop" is in red ink, the strip of stamps is in blue. All of back is blue except "Equibank." The control number is red.



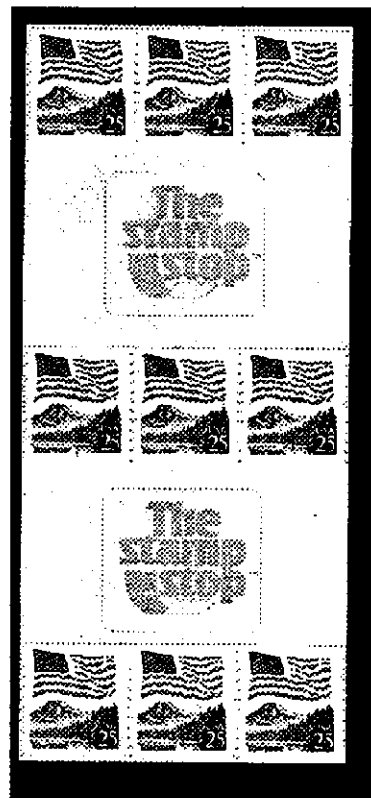
STICKING OUT—This Type 2 carrier shows stamps extending beyond top edge of the front. Plate number (8) top right. Block tagged.



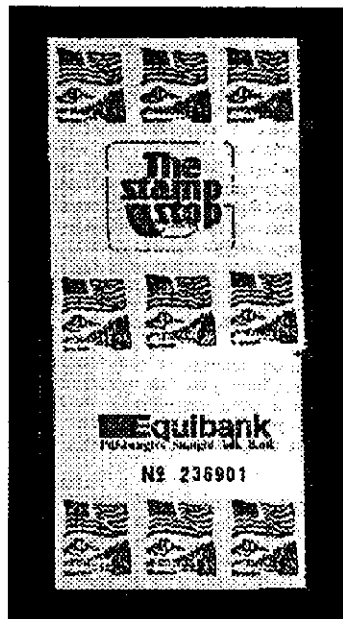
FIGURE 3—These block-tagged Plate 8 (left of center strip) stamps stick over the top edge makes you wonder if this went through the ATM.



TYPE 4—Block tagged stamps with "N#" before the control number. All printing is red. Back (not shown) is blank.



TYPE 6—Paper on this carrier is glossy, like the liner of self-adhesive coils. Plate number 2 is on left stamp in center strip. Logo is printed in pink.



MYSTERY—We don't know color, plate number, or tagging type on this Type 5 carrier, which is reproduced from *Scott's Monthly Journal*. TPN apologizes for poor illustration.

ceded by an "N#" on front; plain back. Stamps are block tagged. Strip with PNC 8 is confirmed.

- Type 4. Red, horizontal, two Stamp Stop and two Equibank logos, six-digit control number preceded by "N#" on front; plain back. Stamps are block tagged. Strip with PNC 8 is confirmed.

- Type 5. Color unknown, vertical, Stamp Stop and Equibank logos, six-digit control number preceded by "N#" on front; back and stamp tagging not known. This is a *Scott Monthly Journal* illustration.

- Type 6. Pink on glossy paper, vertical, two Stamp Stop logos, no control number. Plain back. Stamps are on prephosphored paper first issued Feb. 14, 1989. PNC 2 is confirmed.

The highest control number seen to date is in the 236,000 range

It was originally reported that Equibank was planning to sell advertising on the carriers, and that Pepsi-Cola was to be the first advertiser. To date, we have not seen any carriers bearing any advertising except that of Equibank itself.

Availability of stamps coupled with the expense of this operation, which included design, printing, stamps, affixing of stamps, programming the ATMs and assorted accounting issues, led to the demise of this program. Equibank still sells stamps through ATMs, but holds a unique, pioneering place in postal history.

We are asking for help in completing the Stamp Stop story. Information is lacking about quantities issued, costs, the printer, the affixer, and the last day of Stamp Stop sales. Please write us at 1251 W. Sepulveda Blvd. # 254, Torrance, Calif. 90502. All data will be acknowledged and used to update the story.

References:

- Linn's*, April 10, 1989
- Scott's Monthly Journal*, April 1990

[Editor's note: Frank Norulak asked a prominent Pittsburgh dealer if he had any Equibank panes.

"Panes of what?" said the old-timer.

"Have you ever heard of Equibank?"

"Sure, it's one of our three biggest banks."

"But you don't have any Equibank panes?"

"Never even heard of them."

[So much for modern U.S. postal history!

[And another note: The paper of Type 6 carriers resembles the liner used in self-adhesive panes and coils.]

What's new in self-adhesives?

Demand for self-adhesive stamps continues to grow and the Postal Service is continuing to reorder, according to *Stamp Service Update*, the Stamp Distribution Branch's newsletter to stamp distribution offices.

As *TPN* went to press, Avery Dennison's third distribution of the Flag Over Porch panes was well under way. It was scheduled from July 1 to Aug. 30. No new numbers were reported.

Be aware, however, that USPS is expecting reprints of the Pink Rose and Peaches and Pear.

Stamp Venturers is to start distributing the Rose Sept. 26, continuing through Nov. 3.

Avery Dennison will distribute the reprinted Pears from Oct. 3 to Oct. 31.

And here's a bit of humor

According to Ken Lawrence's column in *Linn's*, Kitty Wunderley of APS has re-named the Flag Over Field ATM as "Flag Over Watermelon."

Take one look at the stamp and you'll never call it anything else.

Small dates found

Just weeks after the price on small-date V1111 Flag Over Porch panes went to \$25, the philatelic clerk in Phoenix, Arizona, got a shipment. Payment is by postal money order only, made out to "Postmaster."

The address is USPS, 1902 W. Union Hills Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85027-9998.

Revisions in master list

2813 29¢ Love Sunrise

B334-11 _____ B

[Quantity uncertain. Priced from \$475 to \$550]

NEW 32¢ Pink Rose

S111 _____ A

S112 _____ A

Coil: SA32R-S111, die cut "perforations" on all sides.

NEW 32¢ Peaches and Pear

V11111 _____ C

V11131 _____ C

V11132 _____ C

V22212 _____ C

V22221 _____ C

V22222 _____ C

Coil: SA32P-V11111, die cut "perforations" vertically, plate number is only under Pear.

Coming new issues

November—\$5.76 Christmas ATM (pane of 18)

November—\$6.40 Christmas contemporary (pane of 20)

Same: coil of 5,560

Please send reports to Gerald H. Clark at 424 Roosevelt St., Midvale UT 84047-3622. If you find a new plate number, a photocopy would be appreciated.

Liners to disappear, USPS says...

By Stephen G. Esrati

Self-adhesive coil stamps as we know them are on the way out. They will be replaced by linerless self-adhesive stamps that will be dispensed much like Scotch tape, according to Joe Brockert of the Postal Service.

Development of linerless coils has been going on for some time but ran into a snag. The goal is to make the printed side slick enough to allow easy separation from the stamp above it in the roll but not too slick so the stamp will accept a cancel.

If development is successful, bulk mailers will be able to convert their automated mailing equipment to self-adhesives, but collecting the new stamps will be a problem.

Brockert hopes the new linerless coils will be available in 1996, but he was not sure.

Why no information?

He did, however, explain why the Postal Service has not been releasing any technical details about self-adhesive coils that have been produced in the past two years.

"We thought there wouldn't be any more self-adhesive coils," Brockert said, "so we left the information out."

What has been happening is that self-adhesive coils are made after convertible booklet panes. The coils are made from entire plates of coil stamps.

Earlier, one row of coils was printed from the bottom of the plate of panes.

The only apparent differences between individual coil stamps and singles from

panes is that coil stamps carry a plate number on some stamps and that the coils have liner selvage all around.

Now, with simulated perforations, the coils can be distinguished because they lack "perforations" at top and bottom. (But on the Pink Rose, USPS geniuses ordered squiggles on all four sides.)

Brockert said undenominated and 55¢ Love Cherub coils were not produced. All other self-stick stamps of 1995 will be issued as coils, he said.

Why make coils?

Coils were originally produced on the same plate as the panes. They were intended for automated affixing machines at the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center and were not to be sold.

Eventually, collectors won the right to buy them, resulting in greater production.

The affixing machines in the cave are for use on first-day covers. It was intentionally mandated that the coils have the same type of liner as the panes, even though this was less efficient for the affixing machines. But a thinner liner for the coils would have meant changing specifications and ordering different supplies, so the inefficiency was tolerated.

Linerless coils, if they can meet the test of accepting ink from a canceler, would improve matters at the cave.

Brockert also said that the cave always sells self-adhesive coil stamps in the same lengths as in one booklet. That means the coils are made after it is known how many stamps are in the pane.

...but how do you collect Scotch tape?

When self-adhesive stamps first appeared, collectors could not soak them off envelopes and they couldn't be removed from their backing and then placed in an album.

So collectors chose one of two forms. They collected used singles cut out from envelopes or they collected mint singles with the backing showing.

PNC collectors have been collecting self-stick coils as strips of five or more with the backing showing.

The prospect of coil stamps that look like Scotch tape with stamps printed on the ungummed side is a daunting one, indeed, for collectors. There will be no way to collect them mint, unless collectors find a way to remove the gum to make them mountable. Even that, however, is not a good solution. A gummed mint stamp, by definition, has the gum.

So it may end up that collectors will have to collect Scotch tape stamps as used stamps on piece. Can you think of an alternative?

Low-low prices on PNC FDCs

5% off for members of PNC³.

CAT	PS	Description	Cachet	Price	CAT	PS	Description	Cachet	Price	CAT	PS	Description	Cachet	Price
CONTINGENCY STAMPS														
CG5-Any	3	Nonprofit "G"	Farnam	5.00	T2(B)-1 + T2-3	5+5	Loco Cott+B	Artmaster	\$14.00	T10TT-22	3	Tractor Trailer	A/C or AM	\$4.00
CG5-Any	3	Nonprofit "G"	ArtCraft	4.00	T2(B)-1 + T2-4	5+5	Loco Cott+B	Artmaster	\$14.00	T10.1-2PRed	3	Oil Wagon	Farnam	\$5.00
CG5-Any	3	Nonprofit "G"	Artmaster	4.00	T2(B)-1 + T2-5	5+5	Loco Cott+B	Artmaster	\$14.00	T10.1-2PRed	3	Oil Wagon	Artmaster	\$4.00
CD22-2	2	D Eagle # rt	ArtCraft poor	\$10.00	T2(B)-1 + T2-8	5+5	Loco Cott+B	Artmaster	\$14.00	T10.9-1	4	Hans Cab # left	Artmaster	\$15.00
CE25-1222	3	"E" Earth	Farnam	\$6.00	T2(B)-1 + T2-10	5+5	Loco Cott+B	Artmaster	\$14.00	T11-1	2	Cabooses # rt	Benham	\$20.00
CE25-1222	5	"E" Earth	Artmaster	\$6.00	T3-CW-1	3	Conestoga	Farnam	\$5.00	T11-1	3	Cabooses	GillCraft	\$7.50
CE25-1222	3	"E" Earth	ArtCraft	\$5.00	T3-CW-1	3	Conestoga	A/C or AM	\$4.00	T13-1	3	Patrol Wagon	Farnam	\$5.00
CG25-S11111	3	"G" Presort	Farnam	\$5.00	T4S-3	5	Coach, # left	ArtCraft	\$7.50	T13-1	3	Patrol Wagon	Artmaster	\$4.00
CG25-S11111	3	"G" Presort	ArtCraft	\$4.00	T4SC-1-tag	3	Carriage	Farnam	\$5.00	T13-1	3	Patrol Wagon	ArtCraft	\$4.00
CG25-S11111	3	"G" Presort	Artmaster	\$4.00	T4SC-1-tag	3	Carriage	A/C or AM	\$4.00	T13.2-1	3	Coal Car	Farnam	\$5.00
CF29-1111	3	"F" Flower	Farnam	\$5.00	T5M-1	4	Motorcycle	ArtCraft	\$12.50	T13.2-1	3	Coal Car	Artmaster	\$4.00
CF29-1111	3	"F" Flower	ArtCraft	\$4.00	T5M-1	4	Motorcycle	ArtCraft	\$12.50	T13.2-1	3	Coal Car	ArtCraft	\$4.00
CG32-	3	"G"	Farnam	\$5.00	T5MW-1	3	Milk Wagon	Farnam	\$5.00	T15-1	3	Tugboat	Farnam	\$5.00
CG32-	3	"G"	A/C or AM	\$4.00	T5MW-1	3	Milk Wagon	A/C or AM	\$4.00	T15-1	3	Tugboat	Artmaster	\$4.00
FLAGS														
F22-T1	3	Test coil	Artmaster	\$7.50	T5CW-1-tag	5	Circus	Farnam	\$5.00	T15-1	3	Tugboat	ArtCraft	\$4.00
F22-T1	3	Test coil	KMC	\$10.00	T5CW-1-tag	5	Circus	A/C or AM	\$4.00	T16.7-1	3	Popcorn	Farnam	\$5.00
F23PFC-A111	3	Flag Presort	Farnam	\$5.00	T5CW-A1	3	Circus, gravure	Farnam	\$5.00	T16.7-1	3	Popcorn	Artmaster	\$4.00
F23PFC-A222	3	Flag Presort	Farnam	\$7.00	T5CW-A2	3	Circus, gravure	Farnam	\$5.00	T16.7-1	3	Popcorn	ArtCraft	\$4.00
F23PFC-A222	3	Flag Presort	Artmaster	\$6.00	T5CW-A2	3	Circus, gravure	Farnam	\$5.00	T17.5-1	5	Racing Car	Farnam	\$5.00
F23USA-A1111	3	Flag USA ABN	Farnam	\$5.00	T5CW-A2	3	Circus, gravure	A/C or AM	\$4.00	T17.5-1	5	Racing Car	Artmaster	\$4.00
F23USA-A1111	3	Flag USA ABN	ArtCraft	\$4.00	T5CW-S1	5	Circus, date	Farnam	\$5.00	T17.5-1	5	Racing Car	ArtCraft	\$4.00
F23USA-A1111	3	Flag USA BEP	Farnam	\$5.00	T5CW-S1	5	Circus, date	A/C or AM	\$4.00	T18-1	2	Surrey	Fleetwood	\$20.00
F23USA-A1111	3	Flag USA BEP	A/C or AM	\$4.00	T5C-1	3	Canoe Intaglio	Farnam	\$5.00	T20CC-1	3	Cable Car	Farnam	\$5.00
F23USA-S111	3	Flag USA SV	Farnam	\$5.00	T5C-S11	3	Canoe Gravure	A/C or AM	\$4.00	T20CC-1	3	Cable Car	Artmaster	\$4.00
F23USA-S111	3	Flag USA SV	A/C or AM	\$4.00	T5C-S11	3	Canoe Gravure	A/C or AM	\$4.00	T20CC-1	3	Cable Car	ArtCraft	\$4.00
F25-1bk	3	Yosemite	Artmaster	\$8.00	T5.3-1	5	Elevator	Farnam	\$5.00	T20.5-1	3	Fire Engine	Farnam	\$5.00
F25-5phos	3	Yosemite, phos	Farnam	\$15.00	T5.3-1	5	Elevator	A/C or AM	\$4.00	T20.5-1	3	Fire Engine	Artmaster	\$4.00
F25-5phos	3	Yosemite, phos	Artmaster	\$10.00	T5.5-1	4	Truck Cut #	Artmaster	\$5.00	T20.5-1	3	Fire Engine	ArtCraft	\$4.00
F25-5phos + F25-5bk	3+3	Yosemite, block + phos	Farnam	\$35.00	T5.5-1	4	Truck	KMC	\$10.00	T21-1	3	RR Mail Car	Farnam	\$5.00
F25-6phos	3	Yosemite, phos	Artmaster	\$15.00	T5.9-3	2	Bicycle poor	Americana	\$12.50	T21-1	3	RR Mail Car	Artmaster	\$4.00
F25-7phos	3	Yosemite, phos	Farnam	\$15.00	T7.1-1P	3	Tractor	Artmaster	\$4.00	T21-1	3	RR Mail Car	ArtCraft	\$4.00
F25-7phos	3	Yosemite, phos	Artmaster	\$10.00	T7.1-1P	3	Tractor	Artmaster	\$17.50	T23-2	3	Lunch Wagon	Farnam	\$5.00
F25-7phos + F25-7bk	3+3	Yosemite, block + phos	Farnam	\$35.00	T7.1-1P	5	Tractor	Gill Craft	\$25.00	T23-2	3	Lunch Wagon	ArtCraft	\$4.00
F25-8phos	3	Yosemite, phos	Farnam	\$5.00	T7.1-1Pzip	5	Tractor ZIP+4	Farnam	\$5.00	T23-3	3	Lunch Wagon	Artmaster	\$4.00
F25-8phos + F25-8bk	3+3	Yosemite, block + phos	Artmaster	\$10.00	T7.1-1Pzip	5	Tractor ZIP+4	A/C or AM	\$4.00	T23-3	3	Lunch Wagon	ArtCraft	\$4.00
F29MR-2	3	Rushmore	Farnam	\$5.00	T7.4-2	3	Buggy # left	KMC	\$7.50	T24.1-1	3	Tandem Bike	Farnam	\$5.00
F29MR-2	3	Rushmore	ArtCraft	\$4.00	T7.6-1	5	Carreta	Farnam	\$5.00	T24.1-1	3	Tandem Bike	Artmaster	\$4.00
F29MR-A11111	3	Rushmore	Farnam	\$5.00	T7.6-1	5	Carreta	A/C or AM	\$4.00	T24.1-1	3	Tandem Bike	ArtCraft	\$6.00
F29MR-A11111	3	Rushmore	A/C or AM	\$4.00	T8.4-1	3	Wheel Chair	Farnam	\$5.00	T25-1	3	Bread Wagon	KMC	\$4.50
F29WH-2	3	White House	Farnam	\$5.00	T8.4-1	3	Wheel Chair	A/C or AM	\$4.00	T111	3	Seaplane	Farnam	\$9.00
F29WH-2	3	White House	A/C or AM	\$4.00	T8.5-1P	3	Tow Truck	Artmaster	\$12.50	T111	3	Seaplane	Artmaster	\$8.00
F32-	3	Porch	Farnam	\$5.00	T8.5-1P	3	Tow Truck	GillCraft	\$15.00	T111	3	Seaplane	ArtCraft	\$8.00
F32-	3	Porch	A/C or AM	\$4.00	T8.5-1+T8.5-1P	3+3	Tow Truck	KMC	\$20.00	SELF-ADHESIVE STAMPS				
MISCELLANEOUS SERIES														
ASS-S111	3	Butte	Farnam	\$5.00	T8.5-1+T8.5-1P	5+5	Tow Truck	H&H	\$10.00	Christmas FDCs are unique PS/5				
ASS-S111	3	Butte	A/C or AM	\$4.00	T9.3-1	2	Mail Wagon	Fleetwood	\$20.00	with 2 Snowman stamps				
AT10-S111	5	Auto	Farnam	\$5.00	T9.3-2	2	Mail Wagon	Fwood, poor	\$15.00	SA29G-V11111115	Christmas	Farnam	10.00	
AT10-S111	5	Auto	A/C or AM	\$4.00	T9.3-2	2	Mail Wagon	Fleetwood	\$20.00	SA29G-V11111115	Christmas	Artmaster	9.00	
M10-11111	3	BEP E&S	Farnam	\$5.00	T9.3-2	4	Mail Wagon	ArtCraft poor	\$10.00	SA29G-V11111115	Christmas	ArtCraft	9.00	
M10-11111	3	BEP E&S	A/C or AM	\$4.00	T10CB-1	3	Canal Boat	Farnam	\$5.00	All other self-adhesives are \$6.50 for Farnam, \$5.50 for other cachets				
M10-S11111	3	SVE&S	Farnam	\$5.00	T10CB-1	3	Canal Boat	Artmaster	\$4.00	UNOFFICIALS				
M10-S11111	3	SV E&S	A/C or AM	\$4.00	T10TT-1	3	Tractor Trailer	Farnam	\$5.00	Unisys UVMs mailed to me from No. VA or from Merrifield, VA. No cachet, \$5.00				
M10-A22113	3	ABN E&S	Farnam	\$5.00	T10TT-1	3	Tractor Trailer	A/C or AM	\$4.00					
M10-A22113	3	ABN E&S	A/C or AM	\$4.00	T10TT-11	3	Tractor Trailer	A/C or AM	\$4.00					
M19-A1212	3	Fishing Boat	Farnam	\$5.00	T10TT-22	3	Tractor Trailer	Farnam	\$5.00					
M20-4	2	Consumer	ArtCraft	\$25.00										
M25-1	3	Honeybee	Farnam	\$5.00										
M25-1	3	Honeybee	Artmaster	\$4.00										
M29UVM-1	3	BEP UVM	Farnam	\$5.00										
M29UVM-1	3	BEP UVM	ArtCraft	\$4.00										
M29UVM-1	3	BEP UVM	Artmaster	\$4.00										
M29UVM-A11	3	ABN UVM	Farnam	\$5.00										
M29UVM-A11	3	ABN UVM	A/C or AM	\$4.00										
M29-S1111trou	3	Silk Flower	Farnam	\$5.00										
M29-S2222rou	3	Silk Flower	Farnam	\$7.50										
M29-S2222rou	3	Silk Flower	Artmaster	\$6.50										
M29-S2222perf	3	Parf Flower	Farnam	\$5.00										
M29-S2222perf	3	Parf Flower	A/C or AM	\$4.00										
OFFICIAL STAMPS														
O20-1	2	Official	Colorano	\$25.00										
O22-1	3	D Official	Farnam	\$35.00										

TERMS: Cash with order, please. I regret that I cannot accept credit cards.
 CONDITION: Unless otherwise specified, all stamps are VF or better. Poor means line misses perfs. Fine means line is not 50% in perfs. Additional unnumbered stamps are ignored.

ABBREVIATIONS:
 Rt = Right PS = Length of numbered strip
 FDCs by subscription: I can provide House of Farnam FDCs on subscription at \$5 each against a \$25 deposit. ArtCraft and Artmaster FDCs are \$4. Subscribers are informed when covers are available with unusual numbers and get first rights to order them at the subscription price.

STEVE ESRATI

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 E-Mail: America OnLine—StevStamps

Dealers keep find secret for seven months

By Stephen G. Esrati

Kim Cuniberti and Victor Bove (a New Jersey dealer who is not interested in self-adhesive panes) sat on a find since late November without making it public until July.

Cuniberti had asked Bove to hunt for known panes he needed. In November, Bove called to say he had found a Love Sunrise pane with the plate-number combination B334-11.

Kim bought 20 panes, but only 13 were B334-11. The other seven were B344-11. Kim is selling B334-11 for \$475.

Kim said for this article:

The two numbers are obviously related, but it cannot be proved if they were ever naturally mixed in one pack. I could never find any location (nor could anyone I contacted) for this related number (B344-11) despite large efforts over the past eight months.

In August, Kim said he thought there were 120 to 125 panes of B334-11 in all.

The find was originally revealed on a "Top Secret" basis to a few others, but the story was already out.

- Jim Fowler had obtained one in a swap with Kim. Neither man would reveal what was swapped, but Fowler was the only known source for B111-5. (He denied being the finder of B111-5.)

- Scott Smith in Antarctica said by e-mail to *TPN* that he had been promised a pane by Bove. Scott's message sought to learn Kim's price. Earlier, Scott had posted a list of all known panes on the Internet. The list was difficult to decode and took Kurt Lenz several hours to convert from a binary format. With that list in hand, Joann Lenz told Ken Lawrence, who writes a self-adhesives column in *Linn's*.

- Alan Malakoff learned of a new number (probably off the Internet) and asked Kim. Kim admitted having it. Kim asked Alan to keep the story secret for a week. After that week, on July 7, Alan mentioned the new number on the Internet in easy-to-read format.

- Later, Joann sent out e-mail on the Internet looking for B334-11.

- Alan is a New Jersey neighbor of Richard Nazar, who had heard of a new number but did not know what it was. Rich placed a buy ad in *Linn's* offering \$135 for B334-11 and B333-6. He was "only fishing," he said, not knowing what the new number was. Alan told Rich about B334-11 after his week of silence.

In other words, the secret was out before Kim made the find public on July 29. Kim said for this article:

Alan was the first person to ask me about the Love Sunrise number and I told him the entire story. No one else ever asked me. I would not have denied the existence of B334-11 if asked.

TPN has learned that someone else did ask, and that Kim affirmed the new pane.

The apparent reason for not making the find public in November, when 29¢ stamps were still on sale everywhere, was to prevent another find that would devalue the ones already found.

In a news release to his customers on July 29 Kim said:

Deferring to the finder's wishes to wait and see if any more of this number might be found, I was extended the right to offer half of the find to my customers (the remainder will be offered by one other dealer). I know I will be chided for acquiescing to "sit" on the information, but I don't believe it would have made any difference in finding more. (The Loves were gone from this post office and its Stamp Distribution Office, and the rate change was upon us.) I feel the trade-off was worth being in a position to make this offer.

The opposite side of that argument—and one reason why Ken Lawrence resigned from the PNC Study Group—is that immediate dissemination of a new number would have allowed time for the many excellent searchers in the PNC community to try to find more.

Note that Kim said he was to sell half. The other seller is Dr. Robert Rabinowitz, who had told Ken earlier that he was not in any way interested in the new number.

There is also some question about the word "half." Richard Federle obtained four panes from Bove and is selling them at \$550. (All were sold by Aug. 5.) Federle said he found out about the panes when he called Bove about another matter and Bove told him. "He owed me a favor," Federle said.

Joe Zika, who bought a pane from Federle, noted that all four Federle panes had a "bullet hole" in the stamp's heart on the center stamp of the top row and on the right stamp in the second row. That might mean that the red plate was damaged and if it were replaced, the next batch would have been 344-11, the numbers Kim got by mistake.

Kim and Dr. Bob are selling the panes on consignment from Bove, but Kim already owned 13 from his earlier buy of "20."

The setting of the \$475 price adds to the mystique of this pane. Bove initially believed them to be worth \$1,000. In his news release Kim said:

During the past couple of months the finder and I have had numerous discussions concerning the value of this pane, ultimately setting the price at \$475. Though I am not the owner, I feel satisfied that I gave all the input I could in arriving at a figure substantially less than the finder initially believed was realistic (\$1,000!).

Kim said he had tried to make the find public but Bove would not agree. Finally, Kim said, he realized that there are collectors who make their own pages for self-adhesive panes and that there are plans for a self-adhesive catalog to be published by Gerald H. Clark and Malakoff. Thus, when Scott Smith put his list of self-adhesives on the Internet, that precipitated going public in early July (a week after Malakoff's "quiet time" expired).

Kim explained for this article:

Alan's week of silence was to allow Bob [Rabinowitz] to get his exclusive into *Linn's*.

Dr. Bob to write "an exclusive" story for *Linn's*, but when Dr. Bob called Michael Schreiber at *Linn's* to inquire, (Dr. Bob was fired by *Linn's* when I was in 1987) he was told it was not *Linn's* policy to write about the finding of individual plate numbers. Schreiber told Dr. Bob to tell Ken Lawrence for use in his *Linn's* column on self-adhesives. Dr. Bob did, but Ken already knew.

All this happened after Dr. Bob had stopped writing for *Stamp Collector*. Since then, Dr. Bob had written one article for *Linn's* but it was clearly not about something he deals in. Getting a story into *Linn's* about self-adhesives would have been a miracle.

In another twist to this story, Smith e-mailed from the South Pole in July: "Has Kim set a price on those Love Sunrise panes yet?"

Questioned as to how he knew about them, when the news had not yet come out, he replied:

"I found out about six months ago [that would be in January]. I was offered one then but was not told what the number was until supposedly Kim and the other gentleman figured out how to price them. Kim purchased 13 panes from this guy.

"It wasn't until about three or four weeks ago that I found out what the real number [B334-11] was. Of course I have to get off the ice to get my copy."

That still made Scott of the Antarctic the first outsider who could compile a complete list of self-adhesive panes around mid-May. When he posted that list on the Internet, he proved once again that you can't keep a good hunter down, not even down in Little America. Scott is sure of getting his pane.

Above the smoke and the fury are several fundamental points:

- The conspiracy of silence kept out Gerald H. Clark, the primary researcher on self-adhesives, since November. Jerry was upset, especially for his many helpers, and said he would never put one of the panes into his collection. Instead, he'll mount this article.

- If there are 120 to 125 panes of B334-11, that might be enough to meet the demand. A lack of interest in self-adhesives may have been masked by the thunder of the news generated by a new collecting area. Collectors have not been putting up their cash. In my own PNC new-issues service, my self-adhesive sales are less than half of the usual number of PNCs.

- If the Postal Service finds a way to make self-adhesives without liners (see story on page 116), the collecting of self-adhesives is doomed except as used on piece. There is no way you can mount a piece of Scotch tape in your album.

- To top it off, self-adhesive data have been almost nonexistent along with data from all private-sector printers.

Data Bank

(all text from USPS, TPN additions in brackets)



Postal Service increases production quantities for Peaches and Pears self-adhesive stamps

WASHINGTON—Responding to an overwhelming public demand for self-adhesive stamps, the U.S. Postal Service has almost doubled the production quantities for the new Peaches and Pear stamps, which will be issued July 8 in Reno, Nevada.

The original order of 800 million peel-and-stick stamps was quickly increased to 1.4 billion, the second time in three months that the Postal Service has adjusted its production schedule to keep up with customer demand for the stamps. In April, 1.9 billion self-adhesive Flag Over Porch stamps were released a month early to bolster diminishing supplies of peel-and-stick stamps around the country.

"With this latest increase, we will more than triple our production of peel-and-stick stamps this year over the 2.4 billion we produced in 1994," said Postmaster General Marvin Runyon. "The popularity of self-adhesive stamps is increasing exponentially, and we are making the necessary adjustments to our production schedule to respond to that demand."

The Peaches and Pear stamps will be issued July 8 during the 1995 NEVPEX/TOPEX Stamp Show in a ceremony beginning at 10 a.m. in the Reno/Sparks Convention Center. They go on sale nationwide July 10.

While the total production of the self-adhesive Peaches and Pear stamps was increased from 800 million to 1.4 billion, the additional 600 million stamps will not be shipped to post offices until later this year. The Postal Service will issue another 800 million of the stamps on July 8 in the traditional gummed format.

Like the Flag Over Porch stamps, the peel-and-stick Peaches and Pear stamps will be issued with simulated perforation die cuts. When removed from the sheet, the stamps' edges will appear perforated like traditional gummed stamps, a look preferred by stamp collectors worldwide.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Issue:	Peaches & Pear
Denomination, type:	32¢ self-adhesive stamps (two designs)
Format:	\$6.40 convertible booklet of 20
First day:	July 8, 1995
First-day city:	Reno, NV
Manufacturing process:	Gravure
Printer:	Avery-Dennison
Printed at:	Avery-Dennison, Clinton, SC
Processed by:	Avery-Dennison
Press:	Dai Nippon 3-color gravure
Stamps per pane:	20
Paper:	Prephosphored self-adhesive
Gum:	Pressure sensitive
Colors:	Yellow, magenta, cyan, black, dark blue
Size:	
Image:	0.72x0.82 inches/18.29x20.76mm
Overall:	0.87x0.982 inches/22.09x24.94mm
Full pane:	7.25x2.610 inches/184.2x66.3 mm
Plate:	400 subjects
Plate numbers:	"V" followed by 5 single digits
Marginal markings:	"©1994 USPS"
	"Peel Here to Fold • Self-Adhesive Stamps • DO NOT WET"
Item number:	6671 sheetlet of 20 66711 coil strip of 20 (available through catalog only)
[PNC Catalog:	SA32P-V11111, plate number is only on Pear]
[Masking tape closing rolls contains sets of numbers and letters. One roll had "133-6" and "R-31." Meaning of these numbers is unknown.]	

Dr. Alice Hamilton—Crusader for industrial medicine

commemorated in Great Americans stamp series

WASHINGTON—Dr. Alice Hamilton, whose pioneering work in the field of industrial medicine contributed to the passage of early workman's compensation laws, will be honored with a 55¢ U.S. definitive stamp in July. The newest addition to the U.S. Postal Service's Great Americans stamp series it is primarily intended for 2-ounce first-class mail.

The first-day-of-issue ceremony will take place at 10 a.m., July 11, at the Harvard School of Public Health. Alice Hamilton was the first woman appointed to Harvard's faculty as assistant professor of industrial medicine, a position she held from 1919 [to] 1935.

During the 1910s and early 1920s her work in the field of industrial medicine exposed many occupational hazards as she campaigned for ventilation, antitoxic rinses and other workplace safeguards against industrial poisons. Her pioneering work Industrial Toxicology (1934) is still regarded as a primary text for medical students.

A strong advocate for protective legislation for working women, she argued the dangers of poisons used in industries employing women, such as lead and solvents used in the pottery trade, printing and type founding.

Included in Hamilton's many causes were child-labor laws, woman's suffrage, and international relations. In 1915, she was a delegate to the International Congress of Women at The Hague which tried and failed to prevent the start of World War I; in 1928 she was one of two physicians appointed to a U.S. delegation to the League of Nations Health Commission.

The recipient of numerous honorary degrees and awards, she was named New England's "Woman of the Year" in medicine by the American Medical Women's Association in 1956. Long into retirement, she continued to lecture for worker's health and remained active in politics. She died September 22, 1970, at home, of a stroke.



Illustration is based on preliminary artwork supplied by Postal Service. Actual stamp has "1995" horizontally below "A" of Alice. The type is 0.04mm tall, about the same size as the date on the V11111 Flag over Porch self-adhesive pane, which was replaced as too small.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Issue:	Dr. Alice Hamilton
Denomination, type:	55¢ regular-issue (definitive) stamp
Format:	Sheet (Single Design)
Series:	Great Americans
First day:	July 11, 1995
First-day city:	Boston, Mass.
Manufacturing process:	Intaglio
Printer:	Banknote Corporation of America (BCA)
Printed at:	BCA, Greensboro, NC
Processed at:	BCA, Greensboro, NC
Press:	Intaglio [sheet-fed T/A, one-color intaglio]
Stamps per pane:	100
Number printed:	200 million
Paper:	Prephosphored
Gum:	Water-activated
Color:	Green (PMS 323)
Size:	
Image:	0.71x0.82 inches/18.0x20.8mm
Overall:	0.84x0.99 inches/21.3x25.1mm
Full Pane:	91x10.24 inches/231.1x260.1mm
Plate:	4 Positions, 400 Subjects
Plate Numbers:	"B" followed by one single digit [B1, B2]
Marginal markings:	"© USPS 1995" • Plate-position diagram • price
	[In addition, selvage next to three stamps carries an advertisement for the Postal Service. Plate numbers at top and bottom of each pane.]

Stamp Services Update (June 1995)

June stamp issues

Subject	Format	Item #	Date
32¢ Ferryboat	Coil of 100	7911	June 2
56.40 Pink Rose	Booklet of 20 Self-adhesive	6675	June 2
20¢ Cog Railway	Coil of 100	7770	June 9
20¢ Cog Railway	Coil of 500	7771	June 9
20¢ Cog Railway	Coil of 3,000	7772	June 9

July stamp issues

Subject	Format	Item #	Date
56.40 Peaches & Pear	Booklet of 20 Water-activated adhesive	6663	July 8
56.40 Peaches & Pear	Booklet of 20 Self-adhesive	6671	July 8
55¢ Alice Hamilton, MD		4472	July 11

Withdrawals from sale at the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center on Aug. 27 (from Stamps, etc.) [Text not from USPS]

MVDC-A11—All ABN-printed UVM stamps for the Unisys Postal and Mailing Center. This indicates that another printer will be producing these stamps.

M19-all—All 19¢ Fishing Boat stamps from Stamp Venturers, ABN (Guilford), and ABN (Multi-Color).

M29-all slit—All rouletted 29¢ Flower stamps.

T1(B)-all—All B Press printings of the 1¢ Omnibus stamp.

T3CW-1—The B Press printings of the 3¢ Conestoga Wagon.

T4SC-all—All (tagged and untagged) 4¢ Steam Carriage stamps.

T5CW-A numbers—All 5¢ Circus Wagon stamps printed by American Bank Note.

T10CB-1—All B Press printings of the 10¢ Canal Boat (block tagged, overall tagged, prephosphored)

T10TT-1—Intaglio printings of the 10¢ Tractor Trailer.

Stamps withdrawn from sale June 25

[The following is excerpted from the June 22 *Postal Bulletin*]

Effective June 25, 1995, all post offices, stations, branches, postal retail stores, vending outlets, authorized philatelic centers, and the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center must withdraw the items below from sale.

Item No.	PNC Catalog No.	Description
5538	—	29¢ Torch ATM stamp
5540B, D, S	—	29¢ Eagle and Shield self-adhesive (all 3 colors)

All vending and postal retail store items containing the above-listed stamps must be withdrawn from sale and prepared for destruction...

Stamp Services Update (July 1995)

August stamp issues

Subject	Format	Item #	Date
78¢ Alice Paul	Pane of 100	1076	Aug. 18

Bureau of Engraving and Printing

Deliveries are continuing on the following stamp items in A/P11 (July):

Definitive stamps

Subject	Format	Item #
3¢ Conestoga Wagon	Coil of 500	7762
3¢ Conestoga Wagon	Coil of 3,000	7763

Requisitions are being processed for the 3¢ Conestoga Wagon coils of 500 However, the coil of 3,000 ... is plentiful.

The 20¢ Cog Railway coils of 100 ... are back-ordered. BEP will process back orders immediately as production permits. The coils of 500 ... and coils of 3,000 ... Cog Railway stamps are available.

Private stamp suppliers

Subject	Format	Item #
Flag over Porch self-adhesive	Booklet of 20	6673

Avery Dennison will begin (July 1–Aug.30) shipments for the third distribution of these booklets to SDOs [Stamp Distribution Offices] based on half the standard distribution for the first update booklet automatic distribution for 1995. Shipments will be made from the West to East coast.

Rose self-adhesive (reprint) Booklet of 20 6675

Stamp Venturers will begin (Sept. 26–Nov. 3) another distribution of these booklets to SDOs [Stamp Distribution Offices] based on half the standard distribution for the first update booklet automatic distribution for 1995. Shipments will be made from the West to East coast.

Fruits (Peaches & Pear) Booklet of 20 6671 self-adhesive (reprint)

Avery Dennison will begin (Oct. 1–Oct.31) another distribution of these booklets to SDOs [Stamp Distribution Offices] based on half the standard distribution for the first update booklet automatic distribution for 1995. Shipments will be made from the West to East coast.

Alice Paul definitive stamp

[The following is taken from the July 6 *Postal Bulletin*]

The Postal Service will issue a 78¢ Alice Paul definitive stamp (Item 1076), in a pane of 100, on Aug. 18 in Mount Laurel, N.J. The stamp ... features ... an American woman suffrage leader who introduced the first Equal Rights Amendment campaign.

While doing graduate work in England, Paul joined British suffragettes in about 1908, participating in militant actions and receiving three jail sentences. After returning to the United States she advocated the use of militant tactics to publicize the need for a federal women's suffrage amendment to the U.S. Constitution. As chairman of the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage (founded in 1913), later the National Woman's Party, Paul ordered marches, White House protests, and rallies. After the suffrage amendment was ratified in 1920, she

urged the enactment of a federal Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. She wrote the "Lucretia Mott" [Scott 959] amendment in 1923.

In 1928, Paul organized the World Party for Equal Rights for Women, known as the World Women's Party. She also lobbied successfully for references to sex equality in the preamble to the United Nations Charter and in the 1964 U.S. Civil Rights Act.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Issue: Alice Paul
Denomination, type: 78¢ [regular-issue (definitive) stamp]
[Series: Great Americans]
First day: Aug. 18, 1995
First-day city: Mount Laurel, N.J.

Manufacturing process: Intaglio
Printer: Banknote Corporation of America (BCA-)
[Printed at: BCA, Greensboro, NC
[Processed at: BCA, Greensboro, NC
Press: Intaglio [one-color, sheet-fed T/A intaglio press]
Stamps per pane: 100
[Paper: Prephosphored]
[Gum: Water-activated]
Color: Purple (PMS 268)

Size:
Image: 0.71x0.82 inches/18.0x20.8mm
Overall: 0.84x0.99 inches/21.3x25.1mm
Full Pane: 91x10.24 inches/231.1x260.1mm
Plate: 4 Positions, 400 Subjects
Plate Numbers: "B" followed by one single digit
Marginal markings: "© USPS 1995" • plate-position diagram • price • promotional information [possibly in selvage of three stamps]



Illustration is based on preliminary artwork supplied by Postal Service. Actual stamp is expected to have a date (position unknown).

Stamp Services Update (August 1995)

August stamp issues

Subject	Format	Item #	Date
78¢ Alice Paul	Pane of 100	1076	Aug. 18

September stamp issues

Subject	Format	Item #	Date
32¢ Milton S. Eisenhower	Pane of 100	1034	Sept. 13

Bureau of Engraving and Printing

Deliveries are continuing on the following stamp items in A/P11 (August):

Definitive stamps

Subject	Format	Item #
3¢ Conestoga Wagon	Coil of 500	7762
3¢ Conestoga Wagon	Coil of 3,000	7763

Requisitions are being processed for the 3¢ Conestoga Wagon coils of 500 However, the coil of 3,000 ... is plentiful.

The 20¢ Cog Railway coils of 100 ... are back-ordered. BEP will process back orders immediately as production permits. The coils of 500 ... and coils of 3,000 ... Cog Railway stamps are available.

Private stamp suppliers

Subject	Format	Item #
Rose self-adhesive (reprint)	Booklet of 20	6675

Stamp Venturers will begin (Sept. 26–Nov. 3) another distribution of these booklets to SDOs [Stamp Distribution Offices] based on half the standard distribution for the first update booklet automatic distribution for 1995. Shipments will be made from the West to East coast.

Flag over Porch self-adhesive Booklet of 20 6673

Avery Dennison will begin (Oct. 2–Nov. 24) fourth distribution of these booklets to SDOs [Stamp Distribution Offices] based on half the standard distribution for the first update booklet automatic distribution for 1995. Shipments will be made from the West to East coast.

Fruits (Peaches & Pear) Booklet of 20 6671

self-adhesive (reprint)

Avery Dennison will begin (Oct. 1–Oct.31) another distribution of these booklets to SDOs [Stamp Distribution Offices] based on half the standard distribution for the first update booklet automatic distribution for 1995. Shipments will be made from the West to East coast.

That Hamilton Woman

To upset the appercart on how to collect plate block, the Postal Service is putting two plate numbers on each pane of the 55¢ Hamilton. The upper positions include a plate-position diagram, giving the true location. They are priced at \$4.50 for UR and UL, \$5.50 for LR and LL. Lower positions are \$4.50, but there is no way of knowing whether they are from upper panes. Strips of 20 are \$22 for LR and LL, \$20 for UR and UL.

Scott	Description	Single	Inscr. BL or Pos. BL	PB/4	PB/6	PB/20	Scott	Description	Single	Inscr. BL or Pos. BL	PB/4	PB/6	PB/20	
1844c	1¢ Dix BL	.10		1.00 (15E)	3.00 (1,2)	4.00 (1, 2)	2182b	23¢ Cassatt OE	.50		3.75 (2U)			
1844	1¢ Dix BE	.10		1.25 (1)	2.50 (1)	3.00 (1)	2182b	23¢ Cassatt PE	.50		3.00 (2)			
2168	1¢ Mitchell BE	.10		.25 (1)			NEW	23¢ Cassatt PE shiny	.50		3.00 (3)		9.00 (3)	
1845	2¢ Slavinsky Cottrell	.10		.35 (1, 2, 3, 4)			2183	25¢ London BE	.50		3.00 (1)			
	Same, premium			10.00 (15, 6)			2183	25¢ London BE	.50		10.00 (2)			
	Same, vert. tag break			15.00 (6)			2184	28¢ Sitting Bull BE	.50		3.80 (1)			
2169	2¢ Lyon BE	.10		.35 (1)			2184A	29¢ Women PE	.45	3.00	2.35 (S1, S2)		13.00 (S1, S2)	
	Same, premium			.55 (2)			2184B	29¢ Jefferson	.45	6.50 (8)	5.00 (S1)		12.00 (S1)	
1846	3¢ Clay Cottrell	.10		.70 (1, 2)			2184B	29¢ Jefferson	.45	4.50 (8)	2.50 (S2)		9.00 (S2)	
2170	3¢ White BE	.10		.90 (1, 2, 3)			1864	30¢ Leibach BL	.75		5.00 (1)	10.00 (1)	19.00 (1)	
NEW	3¢ White unlogged (dull)	.10		.90 (4)		1.25 (4)	1864a	30¢ Leibach BE	.45		5.50 (2)			
NEW	same unlogged (shiny)	.10		.90 (4)		1.25 (4)	1864a	30¢ Leibach OE	6.00		75.00 (2)			
1847	4¢ Schurz Cottrell	.15		.80 (1, 4)			1865	35¢ Drew Cottrell	.75		4.50 (1, 2)			
	Same, vert. tag break			10.00 (1-2)				Same, premium			WANT (3, 4)			
2171	4¢ Flanagan BE	.15		.80 (1)				Plates 3 and 4 wanted, pay \$7.50 per block						
2171a	4¢ Flanagan UE	.10		.40 (1)		2.00 (2)	2185	35¢ Chavez PL	.50	3.50	3.50 (S1, S2)			
NEW	4¢ Flanagan LE	.10		.60 (2)			1866	37¢ Millikan Cottrell	.80		4.50 (1-4)			
1848	5¢ Buck Cottrell	.15		.90 (1-4)				ZIP blocks wanted from Plate 4 with upside down inscription. Pay \$5.00						
	Same, vert. tag break			10.00 (3)			1867	39¢ Clark BL	1.00		8.00 (15E)	16.00 (1)	35.85 (1)	
2172	5¢ Black BE	.15		.70 (1)			1867c	39¢ Clark BE	1.00		5.90 (2)			
2172	5¢ Black BE	.15		1.25 (2)			1868	40¢ Gilbrath BL	.95		9.75 (15E)	19.00 (1)	23.90 (1)	
2173	5¢ Muñoz OE	.15	.70	.75 (1)			1868a	40¢ Gilbrath BE	.95		6.50 (2)			
	Same, with ZIP			1.00 (1)		6.00 (1)	2186	40¢ Chemault OE	.85	5.00	4.00 (1)			
2173	5¢ Muñoz UE	.15	.70	.75 (2)			2186	40¢ Chemault PE dull	.85	5.00	4.00 (2)			
	Same, with ZIP			1.00 (2)		6.00 (2)	NEW	40¢ Chemault PE shiny	.85		4.00 (2)		17.50 (2)	
1849	6¢ Lippmann BL	.15		.60 (1)	1.20 (1)	3.90 (1)	2188	45¢ Cushing BE	.75		3.50 (1)			
1850	7¢ Baldwin BL	.20		.90 (1)	1.80 (1)	4.50 (1)	2188	45¢ Cushing OE	1.00		10.00 (1)		26.00 (1)	
1851	8¢ Knox OL	.20		1.20 (3-6)		5.00 (3-6)	1869	50¢ Nimitz OL	1.00		11.25 (1-4)			
1852	9¢ Thayer BL	.25		2.00 (1)	2.50 (1)	5.50 (1)	1869a	50¢ Nimitz BE	1.00		6.50 (1, 2)		20.00 (1)	
1853	10¢ Russell BL	.25		1.20 (15E)	2.50 (1)	7.00 (1)	1869d	50¢ Nimitz OE	1.00		17.50 (2)			
2176	10¢ Red Cloud BE	.30		.85 (1)			1869d	50¢ Nimitz OE	1.00		7.50 (3)		20.00 (3)	
2176a	10¢ Red Cloud OE	.30		WANT (1)			NEW	50¢ Nimitz PE (shiny)	1.00		4.00 (3)		20.00 (3)	
	Plates 1 OE and 2 OE wanted, pay \$1.25 per block						2190	52¢ Humphrey PE (dull)	1.00	5.50	4.00 (1)			
2176a	10¢ Red Cloud PE dull	.20		.85 (2)		4.50 (2)	NEW	52¢ Humphrey PE (shiny)	1.00	5.50	4.00 (1, 2)		25.00 (1)	
2176a	10¢ Red Cloud PE shiny	.20		.85 (2)		4.50 (2)	NEW	55¢ Hamilton PE, UR, UL	1.00	5.50	4.50 (B1, B2)		20.00 (B1, B2)	
NEW	10¢ red Red Cloud shiny	.45		2.00 (2)		6.00 (2)	NEW	55¢ Hamilton PE, UR, LL	1.00	5.50	5.50 (B1, B2)		22.00 (B1, B2)	
1854	11¢ Partridge OL	.30		1.60 (2-5)		6.00 (2-5)	2161	56¢ Harvard	1.10		7.50 (1)			
1855	13¢ Crazy Cottrell	.30		2.20 (1, 2)			2192	65¢ Arnold BE	1.30		5.20 (1)			
	Same, premium			3.00 (3, 4)			2193	75¢ Willie PE (dull)	1.15	7.00	5.50 (1)		30.00 (1)	
1856	14¢ Lewis BL	.30		1.20 (1)	3.00 (1)	9.00 (1)	NEW	75¢ Willie PE (shiny)	1.15	7.00	5.50 (1)			
2177	14¢ Howe BE	.25		1.90 (1)		7.00 (1)	2194	\$1 Revere	1.95		14.00 (1)			
	Same			2.90 (2)			2194A	\$1 Hopkins BE	1.50		7.00 (1)			
2178	15¢ Cody BE	.30		4.00 (1)		10.00 (1)	2194Ab	\$1 Hopkins OE	1.50		7.00 (1)			
2178	15¢ Cody BE	.30		4.00 (3)			2194Ab	\$1 Hopkins PE phos. dull	1.50		7.00 (2)			
	Plate 3 BE wanted, pay \$3 per block, Plate 1 BE wanted, pay \$2 per block						2194Ab	\$1 Hopkins PE, shiny	2.00		8.00 (2)			
2178a	15¢ Cody OE	.25		3.50 (2U, 3)		10.00 (3)	2195	\$2 Bryan	3.50		21.00 (2)			
	Same, tagged salvage			2.50 (2)			2196	\$5 Hoare BE	9.00		40.00 (1)			
	Same, with tagging break			5.00 (2)		10.00 (2)	2196	\$5 Hoare PE	9.00		35.00 (2)			
2178a	15¢ Cody prephosphored	.25		3.50 (1)				The following are not Great American stamps, but you may not have them.						
	Same on high-bright paper	1.50		WANT (1)		10.00 (1)	1894	20¢ Flag BL Dull	.80				18.00 (4)	
1857	17¢ Casson Cottrell	.35		2.85 (1-4, 13-14)			1894e	20¢ Flag BE Shiny	.80		4.75 (2, 3)	9.50 (2, 3)	20.00 (2, 3, 4)	
	Same, with tagging break			10.00 (13)				Shiny gum from Plates 3, 4 wanted. Pay \$5 for P5/6, \$10 for P5/20.						
	Same, premium			20.00 (15, 16)				Dull gum from Plates 2, 3 wanted. Pay \$4 for P5/6, \$10.00 for P5/20.						
	Same, with tagging break			30.00 (15, 16)				C118	45¢ Langley OE	3.00		25.00		
	Plates 15, 16 wanted, pay \$10 per block							Abbreviations used in descriptions:						
2179	17¢ Lockwood	.35		2.00 (1, 2)				Tagging: B=Block; O=Overall; P=Prephosphored; U=Unlogged (or Unrugged set- vage); T=Tagged salvage.						
1858	18¢ Mason Cottrell	.35		3.50 (1, 2, 5, 6)		15.00 (2, 5, 6)		Penetrations: L=L Perforator; E=Eureka bull's eye; SE=Strait edge						
	Same, premium			6.00 (3, 4)				I have a complete stock of ZIP and copyright blocks. All prices net. No discounts. Prices subject to change. Some quantities limited. I pay postage on orders over \$10, other- wise please add 55 cents.						
1859	19¢ Sequoyah Cottrell	.40		3.00 (both)				1994 Lighthouse supplements						
1860	20¢ Bunche Cottrell	.40		5.00 (1, 2, 5-7)		20.00 (5, 7)		I carry all lighthouse products at a 15% discount. Added 5% off for PNC ³ members						
	Same, premium			7.00 (8, 10)				Lighthouse UV products						
	Same, premium			12.00 (3, 4)				Shortwave UV lamp, an absolute must for PNCs and Greys: \$34.95						
	Same, premium			25.00 (11, 13)				Filter for the above to eliminate visible and long-wave light: \$39.95						
1861	20¢ Gallaudet Cottrell	.40		3.90 (1, 2)				Long-wave UV lamp: \$15.95						
	Same, premium			12.00 (5, 6)		25.00 (6)		All three products: \$85.00 (minus my usual discounts)						
	Same, premium			75.00 (8, 9)				What's the advantage? Portable, battery operated, lightweight.						
1862	20¢ Truman BE	.40		5.00 (1)	10.00 (1)	13.00 (1)								
1862a	20¢ Truman BE	.40		3.90 (2)										
1862b	20¢ Truman OE Paper 1lb	.40		4.00 (3)										
1862b	20¢ Truman OE Paper 1lb	.60		6.00 (3)										
NEW	20¢ Truman PE shiny	.40		2.50 (4)		13.00 (4)								
2179B	20¢ Apper	.40		2.50 (B2)		8.00								
	Same, hibrite paper			4.75 (B1)		15.00								
	Same, dead paper			3.75 (B1)		13.00								
	Same, hibrite paper			3.75 (B2)		13.00								
2179	21¢ Carlson BE	.40		3.20 (1)										
1863	22¢ Audubon BL	1.25		5.50 (1)	27.50 (1)	30.00 (1)								
1863d	22¢ Audubon BE	.45		5.00 (3)										
2182b	23¢ Cassatt OE	.50		5.00 (1U)		10.00 (1U)								
2182	23¢ Cassatt BE	.50		2.65 (1)										

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The unorthodox collector

Lightning (a find) strikes twice

By Roger de Poont

Good luck sometimes comes when we least expect it; and sometimes it is almost more than we can take. First, I had the good fortune of having Tina Brown, editor of *The New Yorker*, forward my philatelic musings to Mr. Esrati [TPN, March 1995, Page 56], and then to make the find of a lifetime. The last two months have changed my life.

Following is an aside

When I happened to mention Mr. Esrati's name in Sydney (no, not that one, it's spelled "Sidney") when I attended DUPEX (Down Under Philatelic Exhibition), I was surprised to hear that they do not think very well of him there. But you do know the Australians: They think the New Zealanders are subhuman and believe Tasmanians to be devils.

Apparently Mr. Esrati had been prospecting for gold and writing about it at the same time. They thought this to be a conflict of interest, even though the writing was to be fiction and it had not even found a publisher yet!

This is another aside

The ladies of the DBB (Daughters of Botany Bay, an upper-crust group of descendants of the convicts who were sentenced to "transportation") to whom I was giving an informal talk, were incensed when I said that London would not have lasted long had he chosen Australia over Alaska, but I hastened to clarify that I did not mean London, England, which brought bad memories to the ladies, but "Union" Jack London.

The DBB historian proceeded to explain that Gen. "Union" Jack London had, indeed, been involved in the War of the Roses, in which the House of Orange lost all its American Colonies except Florida. It was bad history and painful to hear, so I excused myself and went to the punch bowl.

Now, back to the point or is it the Poont?

My gratitude to Mr. Esrati (for his heroism in publishing my musings in March) has led me from what you should have expected from my first paragraph. Every stamp collector experiences, at least once in a lifetime, an epiphany, an almost out-of-body

Editor's note: Roger de Poont, an heir to the DuPont fortune, is a Washington, D.C., collector who lives near the BEP's dumpster. He collects perforation holes, which he calls perforations. It is partly because of his writing that TPN is closing down.

experience in which he floats above reality while he contemplates the too-wonderful-to-be-true: that all-colors-missing stamp; that very earliest EKV (before the stamp went to press), that elusive Serenity Base cancellation.

Now, I can say that I have shared the experience.

That wasn't the Poont; now we're getting there

It happened a week or two ago, while going through a very mundane mix of perforations, nothing out of the ordinary, the eye working almost faster than the mind, flipping perforations over, checking gum condition, varieties, dropping most of them into the "Give Perforations to Children" container, when, all of a sudden, I had the answer to every perforation collector's dreams: the not really expected but always hoped for. There it was, nested in a bunch of run-of-the-mill Lenz perfs, I found the ultimate perforation!

When I recovered my wits and my respiration and heartbeat had come back to normal, I grasped it with not too steady tongs. It was for real: the very first 361-degree perforation.

Pause for a commercial

I pushed my Microradian Perfotron (\$3,999 from Microscience, Inc., New York, N.Y. 10621, reduced to \$3,995 for PNC³ members) out of the closet, put the perforation on the measuring screen, and ... Yes! Three hundred and sixty-one degrees!

The logical conclusion is that if there is a 361-degree circle, the 361-degree circumference must be nearby. So I hunted for it.

I was lucky. BEP was printing 32¢ Flags that day instead of \$1 Seaplanes. But I was unlucky in that they were in rolls of 10,000. Anyway, on the second try, after haggling with a post office window clerk who told me he was holding the coils for a Connecticut physician (who must have thousands of patients) I got a coil.

Did anybody say lightning does not strike twice? There it was! For the record it is the 96th perforation from the top (on the ninth row of the web) between the 6,923rd and 6,924th stamps in the coil. Yes, I had succeeded in plating them.

More commercials

For the time being I had to keep it coiled and it will not show its splendor until I put it on a page. I hope it is a once-in-a-lifetime thing because in order to display it properly—my album page is going to be 245 yards long, give or take a few inches (220 meters for those who are metrically inclined) and I will soon have it, thanks to Custom Page Inc., (P.O. Box 20321, Long Island, N.Y. 10711). Any collector who like long strips, and I understand there are many who do, may contact them. They are only \$695.95 per page and only \$692.95 for PNC³ members.

Once I have my page, it will be merely a question of housing it (the album is coming), and I have a bid from Webtech, a Baltimore contractor, for a small unpretentious place in a Washington, D.C., suburb.

I wish I could illustrate my article, but my gem will not photocopy well.

TPN found me a friend!

My second piece of good luck is that thanks to Mr. Esrati, I understand I have a soulmate, a Mr. Morehouse, who collects big perforations (and I thought mine was the first!) although a bit before the Transportation coils. I wish my interest in perforations dated from an earlier time so that I would be able to help.

The philatelic community is beyond belief. I want all collectors to know they are welcome to Mr. Esrati's desk. I am too shy and retiring to welcome them to my humble mailbox, and I want to thank Mr. Morehouse once again. Maybe I should call him Carol to be on the safe side because until a few years ago I did not realize that Evelyn Waugh was a gentleman, and all through World War II, I kept referring to Princess Carol of Romania and was very embarrassed to find out she was a Prince.

[*Editor's note: If you had only paid attention to your Scott catalogue, you'd have known she was KING Carol.*]

Two plate numbers per pane is a surprise

When the 55¢ Alice Hamilton stamp was issued July 11, it surprised even Joe Brockert, who provides technical details about each stamp to the Corporate Relations Department.

He was surprised because each pane of 100 contains two plate numbers, one at the top and one at the bottom.

Brockert said he did not know that would be the case when he wrote the tech specs because he does not know what each press is capable of until he sees the press sheets. He wrote the tech details before seeing these products of the press.

In the days when there was still a Stamps Division, press sheets as well as panes of stamps were available to the publicity people.

Brockert works in the Stamp Manufacturing division located in a hotel across the street from Postal Headquarters. The Corporate Relations folks are in the headquarters building.

They sometimes send out news releases about upcoming stamps after the stamps have been issued because the information needs to be "cleared" across the street, in other words with Brockert.

On the Hamilton stamp, plate-block collectors will find eight plate numbers, two on each pane. Just below the top plate number there is a position diagram indicating the true position of the pane of 100 in the plate of 400.

In addition, there is a plate number at the bottom of the strip without such a diagram. That means that blocks from lower left and lower right panes cannot be differentiated from blocks with plate numbers in the same spot but out of the two upper panes.

In addition, the information released by Corporate Relations said marginal markings would include the copyright notice, the plate-position diagram and what was termed "price."

"Price" is the formula that says ".55 x 100 = \$55.00."

But unmentioned in the news release was the fact that the selva next to three stamps contains advertising for the Postal Service. Again, Brockert said he could not have known until he could see printings from the press.

The text appears below in an excerpt from the *Summary of Data on the Great Americans*.

That third inscription hints that when supplies are exhausted, the inscription will have to be changed. But it is not known whether collectors will go after the ad messages as collectibles. When biographical details appeared in the selva of some Great Americans, only a handful of collectors sought them.

This was true even of the 52¢ Hubert Humphrey stamp, where an incorrect inscription was later corrected.

A doubling has been found on right panes of Plate B2 and an improperly placed horizontal perforation has been found on all right panes from Plates B1 and B2.

The *Summary of Data on the Great Americans* has been updated as follows (no production data were available):

55¢ Alice Hamilton, MD

For the 1955 rate change, a 55¢ Alice Hamilton stamp was issued July 11, 1995. The stamp came out with two plate numbers in the wide selva. In the row immediately below the upper plate numbers, a plate-position diagram (incorrectly termed a "pane-position" diagram) gives the true position of the pane on the plate. It is impossible by looking at a block with a plate number at the bottom of a strip of 20 to tell a lower plate block from an upper. The only sure test is to have the block with the plate diagram.

In the three rows immediately below the plate-position diagram, the selva has an advertisement for a free catalog from the Postal Service. The text of these reads as follows:

Stamp 1: Like to see other great/stamps and products offered/by the Postal Service?

Great Americans



FOOLED YOU!—This plate-and-inscription block, showing a plate number at the upper right of the pane, is actually from a lower right pane, as indicated by the plate-position diagram. There is another plate number (without diagram) at the lower right corner of this strip of 20. Circle shows skewed perforation hole.

Stamp 2: Send for our free catalog/USPS FREE CATALOG OFFER/ NCSC, 6060 PRIMACY PKWY,

Stamp 3: SUITE 101, MEMPHIS TN/38188-0001. Offer good while supplies last.

The stamp, which is for a two-ounce domestic letter, was printed on the sheet-fed, one-color T/A intaglio press..

Banknote Corp. of America said its initial printing was 200 million stamps.

The stamps have a low-gloss gum and are printed on mottled prephosphored paper.

Known Hamilton varieties

Plates B1, B2: Mottled prephosphored (low-gloss gum) paper. Some panes exhibit minimal addition of brighteners. Bull's-eye perforator. Plate blocks from lower right and left corners of the pane cannot be differentiated from upper panes because each pane has two plate numbers. Numbers at top of pane also have a plate-position diagram. All stamps from right panes show a shifted hole in the horizontal perforations between column 9 and 10. The hole is too close to the vertical perforations between column 9 and 10. The hole is too close to the vertical perforations. No E-E

Plate B2: Doubling of the bottom of letters in "Social Reformer," which appears under the correct "Social Reformer." Also, doubling of top of plate number at bottom right.

George Leduc discovered the doubling described in the box above. Alan Thomson first noticed the skewed perforation which appears on all B1 and B2 panes in all right panes.

New denominations imminent

New international postage rates, effective July 9, dictate several new values in U.S. definitives.

Weight under	Canada	Mexico	World
0.5 oz	.46	.40	.60
1 oz	.52	.46	1.00
1.5 oz.	.64	.66	1.40
2 oz.	.72	.86	1.80

The 40¢ Chennault and 52¢ Humphrey will meet two of the basic rates, but there is an obvious need for a 46¢ and a 60¢ stamp to meet others.

Red Clouds turn red

Joann Lenz dug up some of the 10¢ Red Clouds from Plate 2 that have the wrong red. Instead of the pinkish appearance of normal Red Clouds, these have the red of the 5¢ Muñoz Marin.

Here's what they look like:

They are from Plate 2 and have mottled prephosphoring. They have shiny gum with vertical striations. In other words, they are identical to the shiny-gum Red Clouds from Plate 2 that we have known for some time. The only difference is in the color.

Look for the gum striations

All shiny-gum Great Americans printed by BEP except the 3¢ White and the \$1 Hopkins show vertical gum striations. If these were dull-gum stamps, they would resemble the Paper IIa stamps illustrated on Page xiii of the 1995 PNC Catalog except that on coil stamps (like the 3¢ shiny-gum Conestoga Wagon) the striations are horizontal. Under magnification, the striations appear somewhat less clear than Paper IIa's.

Both Whites found on fluorescent paper and other tagging (or untagged) finds

Wolfgang Elser has obtained dull-gum and glossy-gum copies of the 3¢ White and found both to be on fluorescent paper.

Previously, TPN had reported that the dull-gum Whites were on paper that was almost dead while the glossy-gum Whites were on paper that was slightly fluorescent.

Elser also came up with a 45¢ Cushing that was on dead paper, bringing on a re-examination of the Cushings. The overall-tagged Cushing is among the most difficult to find among all Great Americans. It is usually slightly fluorescent on both front and back. The block tagged is slightly fluorescent (purple) on the front and glows white on the gum side.

Elser has also found an untagged error on the A Press version (Perf. 11.2x11.2) of the 25¢ Jack London. His pane of 10 shows a huge tagging shift that left the two stamps at the bottom totally untagged. Untagged errors on this stamp had been reported previously but it was not known whether they resulted from a shift.

The *Summary of Data on the Great Americans* is being amended to reflect Elser's finds.

For the record, the new 55¢ Hamilton fluoresces weakly on the printed side but shows some brightening on its low-gloss gum. TPN has seen only plate B1.

Catalog Update

New PNCs

AS5-S111—The undenominated 5¢ Butte in the American Scenes series, issued March 10 for nonprofit false franking. Printed by Stamp Venturers in rolls of 10,000.

AT10-S111—The undenominated 10¢ Auto in the American Transportation series, issued March 10 as basic third-class bulk mail stamp. Printed by Stamp Venturers in rolls of 10,000.

AC15-11111—The undenominated 15¢ Tail Fin in the American Culture series issued March 17 for bulk-rate mailing of first-class postcards. Printed by BEP in rolls of 3,000.

AC15-S11111—The undenominated 15¢ Tail Fin in the American Culture series issued March 17 for bulk-rate mailing of first-class postcards. Printed by Stamp Venturers in rolls of 10,000.

AC25-111111—The undenominated 25¢ Juke Box in the American Culture series issued March 17 for false-franking first-class presorted bulk mail. Printed by BEP in rolls of 500 and 3,000.

AC25-S11111—The undenominated 25¢ Juke Box in the American Culture series issued March 17 for false-franking first-class presorted bulk mail. Printed by Stamp Venturers in rolls of 10,000.

AC25-222222—The undenominated 25¢ Juke Box, printed by BEP, with the plate-number combination 222222. June 15. (Clark, Dr. Rabinowitz)

F32-1111—The plate-number combination 1111 of the 32¢ Flag Over Porch with low-gloss gum, about July 15. All rolls of 100 have low-gloss gum. 500s and 3,000s are glossy gum. (A customer of Dr. Rabinowitz)

SA32P-V11111—The self-adhesive 32¢ Peaches and Pear coil (plate number is only under the Pear). July 18. (Haake)

SA32R-S111—The self-adhesive 32¢ Pink Rose coil. Issued June 2. (Haake)

T32-3—Plate 3 of the 32¢ Ferryboat. June 10. (Clark, Dr. Rabinowitz)

T32-4—Plate 4 of the 32¢ Ferryboat. July 12. (Rose, Dr. Rabinowitz)

New Great Americans

55¢ Hamilton—Issued July 11. Plate B1, with two plate numbers per pane.

55¢ Hamilton—Plate B2, with two plate numbers per pane. July 15. (O'Neal)

78¢ Paul—Scheduled for issue Aug. 18 (after TPN's publication)

New self-adhesive panes

32¢ Peach and Pears se-tenant pane with plate-number combination V11111. June 16. (Meyers)

32¢ Peach and Pears se-tenant pane with plate-number combination V11131. (Malakoff via Internet)

32¢ Peach and Pears se-tenant pane with plate-number combination V11132. (Malakoff via Internet)

32¢ Peach and Pears se-tenant pane with plate-number combination V22212. June 16. (Meyers)

32¢ Peach and Pears se-tenant pane with plate-number combination V22221. (Malakoff via Internet)

32¢ Peach and Pears se-tenant pane with plate-number combination V22222. (Malakoff via Internet)

New Scott Catalogue numbers

American Culture Series

15¢ Tail Fin, BEP version—2908; Same, SVS version—2909

25¢ Juke Box, BEP version—2911; Same, SVS version—2912

American Scenes Series

5¢ undenominated Butte—2902

American Transportation Series

10¢ undenominated Auto—2905

Flag Series

32¢ Flag Over Porch coil (red date, BEP)—2913

32¢ Flag Over Porch coil (blue date, SV)—2914

32¢ Flag Over Porch self-adhesive coil—2915

32¢ Flag Over Porch self-adhesive pane—2916

"G" stamps

5¢ nonprofit "G" stamp—2893

Self-adhesives

32¢ Flag over Field ATM—2919

32¢ Flag Over Porch pane (V11111)—2920

Same, larger date—2920b

Transportation Series

5¢ Circus Wagon, SVS version—2452D

20¢ Cog Railway—2463

32¢ Ferryboat—2466

Where to get news after this

After TPN ceases publication, news on PNCs and Great Americans will appear in Steve Esrati's quarterly price lists and in news articles written for *Stamp Collector*. The *Summary of Data on the Great Americans* will continue to be updated regularly. Watch for ads in *Linn's* and *Stamp Collector* under "Plate Blocks."

PLATE NUMBER COILS

Our choice of plate number

	LP	PS3	PS5
1897 1c Bus	.14	.21	.52
2225 1c B Press	.32	.40	.72
2225a 1c B Press untagged	.68	.72	.80
NEW 1c C Press	.68	.72	.80
1897A 2c Loco	.25	.28	.56
2226 2c Loco B or C Press	.68	.72	.80
1898 3c Handcar	.39	.64	.80
2252 3c Conestoga	.64	.72	.80
Same, shiny gum	.64	.72	.80
2123 3.4c School Bus	.56	.80	1.00
2123a 3.4c PC	7.20	7.60	8.00
1898A 4c Stagecoach	1.60	1.80	2.00
1898Ab 4c PC	7.20	7.60	8.00
2228 4c B Press	.80	.96	1.00
2228a B Press overall tagged	15.20	15.60	16.00
2451 Steam Carriage	.80	.96	1.00
2451a same, untagged	1.60	1.80	2.00
2124 4.9c Backboard	.70	.74	1.44
2124a 4.9c PC	1.60	1.80	2.00
1899 5c Motorcycle	.39	1.02	1.24
2253 5c Milk Wagon	.80	.88	1.00
2452 5c Circus Wagon	.80	.88	1.00
2452a untagged	1.28	1.48	1.60
Same, grooved	1.28	1.48	1.60
Same, grooved (with date)	1.28	1.48	1.60
2453 5c Canoe (brown)	.80	.88	1.00
2454 5c Canoe (red)	1.60	1.65	1.75
NEW (5c) "G" Nonprofit	1.35	1.40	1.50
2902 (5c) Butte	.60	.65	.75
1900 5.2c Sleigh	2.70	4.90	12.80
1900a 5.2c PC	8.80	10.80	11.20
2254 5.3c Elevator	.92	.96	1.04
2125 5.5c Star Truck	2.74	2.32	2.40
2125a 5.5c PC	1.64	1.72	1.96
1901 5.9c Bicycle	2.94	6.37	14.80
1901a 5.9c PC	15.40	25.60	26.00
2126 6c Motorcycle	.84	1.20	1.28
2126a 6c PC	1.84	1.92	2.00
2127 7.1c Tractor	1.79	2.08	2.16
2127a 7.1c PC 1 "Cig"	3.20	3.40	3.60
2127a 7.1c PC 1 "DP-4"	2.04	2.08	2.16
1902 7.4c Baby Buggy	3.92	4.41	8.80
1902a 7.4c PC	4.00	4.40	4.80
2255 7.6c Carraho	1.40	2.00	2.12
2128 8.3c Ambulance	.88	.98	1.80
2128a 8.3c PC	1.00	1.12	1.80
2231 Arm. B Press	2.80	3.00	3.20
2256 8.4c Wheelchair	2.00	2.20	2.40
2129 8.5c Tow Truck	2.10	2.45	3.20
2129a 8.5c PC	2.80	2.88	2.96
1903 9.3c Mail Wagon	4.41	4.90	12.00
1903a 9.3c PC	2.40	2.56	2.72
2257 10c Boat, black tag	1.04	1.12	1.20
Overall tag, dull gum	3.20	3.60	4.00
Phosphored, shiny gum	2.40	2.56	2.80
2457 10c Tractor Trailer	1.04	1.12	1.20
2458 same, grooved	1.04	1.12	1.20
2604 (10c) Eagle & Shield (ABN)	2.64	2.72	2.80
2605 (10c) BEP	2.64	2.72	2.80
2606 (10c) SV	2.64	2.72	2.80
2905 (10c) Auto	2.20	2.30	2.50
2130 10.1c Oil Wagon	1.12	1.47	2.60
2130a 10.1c PC (black)	2.00	2.12	2.80
2130a 10.1c PC (Red)	2.04	2.12	2.20
1904 10.9c Hansom Cab	6.37	11.20	28.80
1904a 10.9c PC	10.40	26.40	26.80
1905 11c Caboose	2.21	2.35	4.00
1905a 11c PC lines	3.05	3.20	3.40
1905a 11c PC no lines	.80	1.12	1.52
2131 11c Stutz	.39	.98	1.52
2132 12c Steamer	1.52	1.60	1.80

	LP	PS3	PS5
2133 12.5c Pushcart	1.86	1.96	2.60
2133a 12.5c PC	3.12	3.20	3.60
2132b 12c B Press PC	17.60	18.40	19.20
2258 13c Patrol Wagon	2.20	2.40	2.60
2259 13.2c Coal Car	2.20	2.40	2.60
2134 14c Iceboat	.98	1.68	2.00
2134b 14c B Press	2.24	3.12	3.60
2260 15c Lugboat	2.00	2.24	2.40
2908 (15c) Tail Fin BEP	2.00	2.30	2.45
2909 (15c) Tail Fin SV	1.80	2.10	2.25
2261 16.7c Popcorn	3.20	3.52	3.80
1906 17c Auto	1.26	2.17	2.72
1906a 17c PC Type A	3.92	4.00	4.40
Type B	14.56	15.12	17.60
Type C	7.60	7.88	8.20
2135 17c Dog sled	1.93	2.10	2.80
2262 17.5c Racer	2.40	2.80	3.20
2262a 17.5c PC	2.40	2.80	3.20
1907 18c Survey	1.86	2.80	3.60
1891 18c Flag	2.45	3.29	4.40
2149 18c Washington	1.93	2.10	2.80
2149a 18c PC	3.20	3.60	4.00
2529 19c Boat	2.60	3.00	3.60
1908 20c Pumpar	1.23	1.44	2.72
2005 20c Consumer Education	3.19	26.25	160.00
1895 20c Flag	1.93	2.80	4.80
1895a 20c PC 14	48.00	48.00	48.00
0135 20c Official 1	7.35	17.50	56.00
2263 20c Cable Car (black tagged)	2.60	3.00	3.60
2263b Same, overall tagged	2.60	3.00	3.60
2463 20c Cog Railway	3.10	3.30	3.70
2264 20.5c Fire Engine	2.60	3.00	3.20
2265 21c Rail Mail Car	2.60	3.00	3.60
2150 21.1c Lenses	2.10	2.21	3.80
2150a 21.1c PC	3.08	3.08	4.60
2115 22c Flag	2.80	2.87	3.60
2115 22c Flag Test coil	2.80	2.87	3.60
2112 22c "D" Eagle	3.80	4.08	6.20
0139 22c "D" Official	24.50	35.00	64.00
2464 23c Lunch (solid tag)	2.60	3.00	3.20
2607 23c Presort Flag	2.60	3.00	3.20
2608 23c USA (ABN or SV)	3.20	3.60	4.00
2608a 23c USA BEP version	2.80	3.20	3.60
2464 Same, matted (dull or shiny)	2.60	3.00	3.20
2266 24.1c Tandem	3.12	3.36	3.60
2136 25c Bread Wagon	2.12	2.24	3.40
2279 (25c) "E" Earth	1.68	1.84	3.00
2280 25c Yosemite (black or plus)	2.80	2.98	3.80
2281 25c Honeybee	1.68	1.96	3.60
NEW (25c) "G"	4.15	4.40	5.00
2911 (25c) Juice Box BEP	3.25	3.50	4.00
2912 (25c) Juice Box SV	3.00	3.25	3.75
2518 "F" (29c) Tulip	2.80	3.20	3.60
2525 29c Flower Sit	2.80	3.20	3.60
Same Perf.	3.20	3.60	4.00
2523 29c Mt. Rushmore	2.80	3.20	3.60
2523a grooved	2.80	3.20	3.60
2690 29c White House	3.60	4.00	4.40

	LP	PS3	PS5
NEW (32c) "G" (any color)	4.15	4.40	5.00
2913 32c Flag over Parch BEP	4.00	4.25	4.75
2914 Same, SV	3.50	3.75	4.25
2466 32c Ferryboat	3.95	4.25	4.95
2468 51 Sealplane	4.00	4.80	8.00
CYP31 Variable Rate Shield (UWA) BEP version per PS/5			10.00
CYP32 Units, ABN version			10.00

Self-stick coils

2480 Pine Cone self-stick	—	—	5.00
2813 Love self-stick	—	—	5.00
2598 Eagle self-stick 1	—	—	5.00
2599 Statue of Liberty	—	—	5.00
2791 Xmas toys PS/8	—	—	6.00
NEW Santa	—	—	5.00
NEW (32c) "G"	—	—	5.00
2915 Flag/Porch	—	—	5.00
NEW Pink Rose	—	—	5.00

We carry all new numbers as soon as they are out.

Self-stick booklets

2431a Eagle and Shield	15.00
2478a 29c Red Squirrel	10.50
2479a Rose	10.00
2480a Pine Cone	11.00
2595 Eagle Brown	11.00
2596a Eagle Green	11.00
2597a Eagle Red	10.00
2598a Blue Eagle	11.00
2719a Christmas Train	9.50
2802a Christmas	7.50
2830a Snowman	11.00
2813a Sunrise Love	11.00
2599a Statue of Liberty	10.00
2873a Santa	8.00
2874a Cardinal	8.00
6 stamps	11.00
(32c) Love Cherub	12.00
2920 Flag/Porch Small Year	25.00
Same, larger year	10.00
NEW 55c Love Cherub	15.00
NEW 32c Pink Rose	11.00
NEW 32c Peaches and Pear	11.00

FREE
WITH \$75 PURCHASE
3-ring PNC pages or
3-ring booklet pages

TERMS: Payment with order. Prices subject to change without notice. U.S. postage taken in trade at 90%. Single plate number coils available at pair price minus one stamp. Average coils available on better items. Please send for list.

CONDITION: Fine-Very Fine. Never hinged. If you require XF, add 35% to list.

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FAX: (515) 226-1651



Constant plate and mat varieties—Report 57

By A. S. Cibulskas

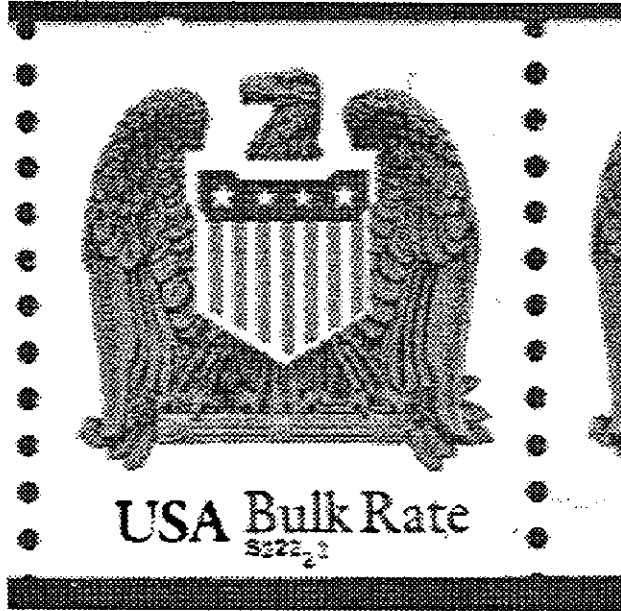
2¢ Locomotive

a) Reissue, Plate 1. Plate gouge just above and right of center of smokestack. Constant at 3R. (MKeller)

4.9¢ Buckboard

a) Precancel, Plate 2, Gap 2R. Dropped transfer. Constant at 1R. (SAdams)

10¢ Eagle & Shield



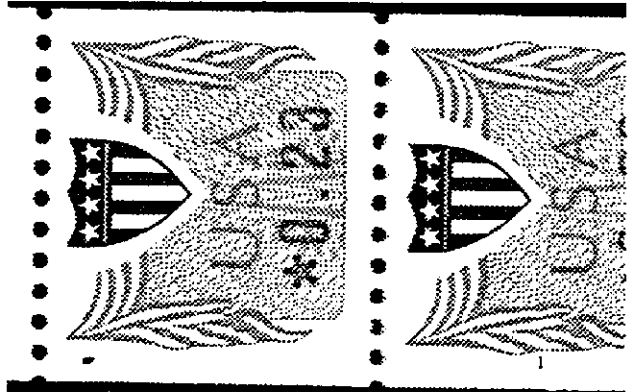
a) S22222, Stamp Venturers' low-gloss reprint. When does a misalignment of colors become collectible? In most cases, stamps with multiple plate numbers are most desirable when all the plate numbers are aligned and evenly spaced. In this instance, the blue plate is shifted downward 0.75mm, causing "USA" to print below "Bulk Rate" and bringing the blue top of

the shield down to leave the eagle's neck looking cut off. (TWajek)

12¢ Stanley Steamer

a) Plate 1. Dots under left wheel. Constant at 3L. (RRabinowitz)

22¢ ECA-GARD UV



a) Plate 1, dull gum, new font. Blob under stamp. Constant at 2L. (AHaake)

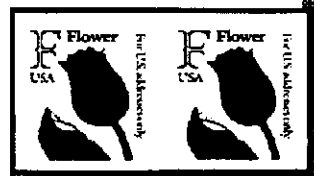
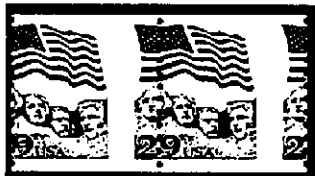
15¢ Tugboat

a) Plate 2, overall tagged. "Decimal point" between the "1" and the "5" of denomination. Constant at 10R. (SAdams)
 b) Plate 1, block tagged, damaged "1". Damage at top of "1" of denomination on both sides. Constant at 1R. (RRabinowitz)

... and what now?

Now that *TPN* is shutting down, reports of varieties appear to have nowhere to go. For the time being, however, it would be wise to continue sending reports to me, A.S. Cibulskas, 28 Westwood Rd., Stamford CT 06902. We may assemble them for appearance in Steve Esrati's quarterly price lists (which will have far greater circulation than *TPN*).

BUYING ERRORS



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 Overinkings • Color Shifts • Miscuts, etc.
 Older Issues • Recent Issues • New Finds**

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P.O. Box 38, Cheltenham, PA 19012



Juke Box reprinting may have been in vain

When the undenominated 25¢ Juke Box with the plate-number combination 222222 was found, there was a story behind it.

A bulk mailer in Salt Lake City needed the stamps for a mailing. The Stamp Distribution Office there tried to locate quantities of the stamp sufficient to meet his needs.

The SDO pounded the computer, but there just were not enough Juke Boxes. So Stamp Acquisition ordered more printed.

According to the label on the boxes, the printing took place April 5, and the stamps were shipped to Utah.

But it was too late for the mailer and he canceled the order.

It is not known how he mailed out his stuff.

That in itself is normal, but what is not apparent is that the 25¢ undenominated First-Class Presort "G" stamp was not supposed to be put on sale to people who needed stamps, just to collectors.

The "G"s might have met the mailer's needs.

The medal parade

Bill McMurray has added another gold medal to his trophy case with a win at Nojex '95. He also got a gold medal from the BIA and an award from PNC³. Other PNCers with awards at various shows were E.V. Chadwick (17¢ Electric Auto); Dean Hawk (Flags, 1969-1991); Ron Hayes (Used 10¢ Eagle and Shield) and Grace Marchese (Souvenir pages and EFOS).

Information slowdown

The 32¢ Ferryboat was issued June 9 and the 32¢ Pink Rose was issued on June 2. When *TPN* got the technical data for the 20¢ Cog Railway on June 19, we were told that the information on the Ferryboat and Pink Rose could not yet be released because they were "still in clearance."

In the days when the late Jack Williams ran things at USPS' Stamp Division, we used to get information about new stamps before they were issued.

Dextrin gum sticky, striated

Al Haake has a complaint. The new shiny-gum 3¢ Conestoga Wagon is hard to handle. The Postal Service says it has dextrin gum.

Even though Haake wears surgical gloves while stripping them from rolls, he

finds that the stamps stick to everything. He says the 20¢ Cog Railway and the 32¢ Ferryboat are just fine.

But the gum on the last two and the Conestoga Wagon are not the same, although both appear glossy.

The Conestoga's gum has no striations; the Ferryboat and Cog Railway have horizontal striations. It's something we

customers. He knew how to work the system used for distributing stamps. And he provided a pile of news to *TPN*.

Denis Fuller, a South Carolina dealer, recalled that Cook was able to obtain all four plate positions for him on a particularly difficult issue. It took three months.

Cook resigned in early July.

**all the PNC news that fits we print
(and some Great Americans, too)**

have not noticed before on any other PNCs.

But we have noticed the striations on all shiny-gum Great Americans printed by BEP except the 3¢ White and the \$1 Hopkins.

On the 29¢ Warren and 35¢ Chavez, both printed by Stamp Venturers, the gum looks cloudy, with a hint as if the stamps had been embossed. The 29¢ Jefferson, printed by SV has low-gloss gum and does not show striations.

Meanwhile, the Postal Service said the gravured Peaches and Pears booklets from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing would carry PVA, not dextrin, gum.

Up goes the price

In the last issue of *TPN*, Steve Esrati offered the tagged error of the 10¢ Eagle and Shield with the plate-number combination 22222 at \$40 VF and at \$50 XF. The price has jumped in this issue because we now know that there were only four rolls of 3,000, or fewer than 500 PNCs.

Change at Salt Lake

Did you ever wonder why so much news came out of Salt Lake City? If you said "Rich Cook," take a bow.

Richard C. Cook was undoubtedly America's best philatelic clerk. He not only sold every stamp the United States produced, including self-adhesive coils, but was able to find varieties Washington did not even know existed. (It was Cook, for example, who first noticed the two papers on the 20¢ Apgar.)

His calling card said "Philatelic Specialist," but Cook was more than that. He knew how to locate stock in any U.S. post office and how to route it to his

Last-day ceremonies

Collectors know that many stamps suddenly disappear from sale at the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center without prior warning.

In a San Francisco speech, stamp czar Azeezaly Jaffer now promises last-day ceremonies on the day a stamp is withdrawn.

Will the cave tell Azeez in time to set up such a rite?

Also in his speech, Azeez promised to make all items in the *Stamps etc.* catalog available at all philatelic outlets.

Running out of 20s

BEP has run out coils of 100 of 20¢ Cog Railways a month after they were issued. They are on back order. Other roll sizes are in stock.

BEP is also reprinting coils of 500 of the 3¢ Conestoga Wagons by the bushel, apparently because people still need them as makeup postage. Rolls of 3,000 are plentiful.

A Peach/Pear reprint?

The July issue of the Stamp Distribution Branch's *Stamp Services Update* says Avery Dennison will begin distribution in October of a reprint of the *Peaches and Pear* self-adhesive booklet. There has been no other announcement of a reprint. You may want to keep your eyes open.

Two gums on Flag/Porch

When BEP's 32¢ Flag Over Porch coils were issued, all had low-gloss (matte) gum. Or so we thought. Dr. Robert Rabinowitz's strips were all from large rolls. But his 1111s had glossy, not low-gloss, gum. A customer called it to his attention. So he called Al Haake to compare notes.

Haake's strips were all from rolls of 100. They had low-gloss gum. Rabinowitz established that all coils of 100 showing the plate-number combination 1111 had low-gloss gum. Larger rolls had glossy gum.

Collector hunts for elusive 35¢ usage

Millard Mack is looking for a commercial cover bearing the 35¢ Drew and nothing else.

The cover is not going to be easy to find because the 35¢ rate was for a two-ounce letter during the short life of the 18¢ first-class rate, which ran from March 22, 1981, to Oct. 31, 1981.

The first Drew stamps were issued June 31, 1981, giving the 35¢ rate only a four-month existence.

The Drew stamp was replaced by the 37¢ Millikan, representing 20¢ for the first ounce and 17 cents for the second.

Fewer FDCs being processed, writer for Mekeel's finds

USPS used to release an annual count of the first-day covers it processed for collectors and cachet-makers. No more. The list appeared in an article by Dave Kent in *Mekeel's* for July 21, but was unavailable from the Corporate Relations Department of the Postal Service. The following is based on Kent's article.

There has been a dramatic drop in interest in FDCs. Commenting on Kent's article, John F. Dunn, the paper's editor, said:

Compare the average of 412,127 FDCs for each stamp issued in 1948 with the 1994 average of 167,742 and you have a 60% decline in the averages.

Kent's statistics went only through November 1994. That means the "G" stamps are not included.

The total for the shortened year was 7.548 million for 45 different "issues."

Kent explained:

Many "issues," of course, consisted of anywhere from 2 to 20 different stamp designs. (The Legends of the West sheet was released in three different cities, and counts as three issues.)

Kent speculated that the entire FDC business as now being run by the marketers under Azeezaly Jaffer, now excludes any real first-day usage by requiring that covers come in with the stamps already affixed.

The totals for PNCs, self-adhesives (no separate figures for panes or coils), and Great Americans:

Self adhesives

Love Sunrise	125,146
Blue Eagle	67,300

PNCs

Unisys UVMs	26,390
10¢ Tractor Trailer (gravure)	15,431
19¢ Fishing Boat (SV)	14,538

Great Americans

20¢ Virginia Apgar	28,461
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The best-selling FDC for 1994 was the World War II souvenir sheet which had a total of 744,267. The runner-up was Winter Sports with 645,636.

The poorest sales were two high priced items: \$9.95 Express Mail at 11,483 and \$8 BEP souvenir sheet at 13,126.

TPN made several attempts to obtain the FDC tally from the Corporate Relations Department. Monica Hand told TPN she had sent it to *Mekeel's*. But a request to send it here seems to have fallen on deaf ears.

Linn's resumes column on self-adhesives

Linn's has paid the ultimate honor to TPN by copying our coverage of self-adhesive panes.

Ken Lawrence's first column appeared in the issue of April 17. There was a May 15 column but none in June or July.

In the issue of Aug. 7, Linn's, Ken lists the Love Sunshine pane with the plate-number combination B334-11 (see news story on Page 118). Says Ken:

Because of its late appearance, it may prove to be scarce or susceptible to price manipulation. But it also still may turn up in quantity; 29¢ Sunrise Love stamps have not been withdrawn from sale.

Indeed they have not been withdrawn, at least according to the most recent issue of *Stamps, etc.* But don't try finding any at your local post office. A better bet is the USPS cave which may have tons of them.

Right after the rate change, without being instructed to do so, most post offices simply withdrew all 29¢ stamps. Meanwhile, self-adhesives sold like hotcakes, constantly forcing the Stamp Acquisition people to raise their orders for self-adhesive stamps.

Ken plans a book similar to his out-of-print *Linn's Plate Number Coil Handbook*.

Rate-change 'usages'

Joann Lenz brought some 95¢ IRCs (international reply coupons) up to the new \$1.05 rate by applying stamps of her own choice.

On three coupons she used the three varieties of the 10¢ Canal Boat (PNCs, of course); on five others she used the five versions of the 10¢ Red Cloud, including the newly found red (not pink) Red Cloud.

She showed them at a PNC³ meeting in Cincinnati.

ADLETS

Classified ads are 15 cents a word. There is no charge for your address. Members of PNC³ are entitled to one free 25-word adlet each year.

I'LL PAY \$50-\$100

DULL-GUM POSTAGE DUES J99a 50¢ VF or better. Need all positions of dull gum paper Plate 32483. Also need any shiny gum with tinted paper and most shiny gum on white paper. Also could use Plate 35283 UR and 37877 dull gum UR and LL. Also interested in most of the dull gums except 17¢. J. Ron Edwards, M.D. 1800 Brassfield Rd., Raleigh, NC 27614. (5-95 PNC³)

WANTED U.S. commercial covers: 32¢ G A4435, 10¢ Eagle/Shield A33334, 19¢ Fishing Boat PNCs on postcards; PNCs to foreign destinations, all better PNC covers. Rob Washburn, P.O. Box 840, Skowhegan, ME 04976. (5-95 PNC³)

FOR SPECIALISTS: We have what you need in tagging varieties—including untagged errors—gum types, precancels, booklets, sheets. Send 75¢ LSASE for my list. We pay high prices for NH. Victor Bove, Box 1013, New Monmouth, NJ 07748. (6-95)

WANTED PS 18s: Regular Perfed XF-S, imperf, misperf, miscut. John Tison (PNC³ 473, APS, ASDA), PO Box 8755, Newport Beach CA 92658. 1-800-854-4487. (6-95)

LIGHTHOUSE ALBUMS, supplements, stock books, supplies, UV lamps. I offer a generous 15% discount. Also, K&E albums and supplements. Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (5-95)

TAGGED ERRORS

TAGGED USA: 23¢ USA Flag, BEP version, 1111. PS/5 XF, \$50; VF \$40. 5% off for PNC³. Also all BEP E&S 11111 tagged error, VF \$35, XF40; E&S 22221 tagged error, VF \$25, XF \$30, E&S 22222 tagged error, VF \$150, XF \$200. Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Hts., OH 44120 (5-95)

ALL BACK ISSUES of TPN are available. For a list with key articles send SASE to POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (5-95)

JOIN PNC³ For details, write Joann Lenz, 37211 Alper Dr., Sterling Hts. MI 48312-2203. (5-95)

PNC RARITY: 17¢ Auto, Plate 1, showing broken axle variety that was left out of the 1995 PNC Catalog, PS/7, Fine only, \$50; PS/5, Fine only, \$40; PS3, \$25; PS/2, \$20. Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (5-95)

6th REVISION of Summary of Data on the Great Americans is out! It includes some new stamps, some new data, even CC1 squares. \$7.50 if you've not ordered before; \$5 for updates. Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (5-95)

'G' STAMP FDCs

House of Farnam (my choice of numbers) \$5: ArtCraft, \$4; Artmaster, \$4. I have ABN, Stamp Ventures, BEP, nonprofit and presort. Hurry, they will not last. Esrati, POB 20130, Shaker Heights, OH 44120. (5-95)

My PNC prices

PNC³ members may deduct 5%. PNC Study Group members may take an added 5%. You'll love my my no-quibble return policy, my VF quality. This list (List 13) is good through July 4, 1995. Prices are for F-VF PS/5. Deduct 10% for PS/3 or Fine; add 25% for XF. If you prefer PS3, deduct 5% except where separate prices are noted. I have precancel gaps, varieties. Ask!

1c Cannabis 1, 2, 5, 6	.40
3, 4	.50
8 Press 1, 2	.55
B Press Untagged 2	.50
C Press 3 (normal 3)	3.00
Cloudy 3 (variety 1)	.75
Full size 3 (Variety 3)	2.00
2c Locomotive 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10	.50
3 Smoking 1, or coal	15.00
B Press 1	.60
Spike variety (no #)	10.00
C Press 2	.60
3c Handcar 1, 2, 3, 4	.70
3c Conestoga Wagon 1	1.00
3, glossy gum	1.80
3, glossy gum	1.00
3, 4c School Bus 1, 2	1.00
PC 1, 2 (IR, No Gap)	6.00
4c Stagecoach 1, 2, 3, 4	1.00
5, 6 (VF, Poor only .50)	1.50
PC 3, 4, 5, 6	6.50
Same, B Press 1	1.00
Overall tagged 1	14.00
4c Steam Carriage 1, tagged, untagged	1.00
4.9c Backboard 3, 4	.90
4 Buggy whip (long)	10.00
PC 1-5	1.80
5c Motorcycle 1, 2, 3, 4	1.00
5c Milk Wagon 1	1.00
5c Circus Wag. 1, unt. 1, A1, A2, A3, S1	1.50
5c Cannon 1, 2, 3	1.50
Ground S11 (fishbait, edged gum)	1.25
Ground S11 (dead in W, moon gum)	2.00
(5c) "G" Nonprofit, A11111, A21111	1.00
(5c) Butte Nonprofit, S111	1.00
5.2c Sleigh 1, 2	8.50
3	240.00
5	170.00
PC 1, 2	12.00
PC 3, 5	14.00
PC 4, 6	13.00
5.3c Elevator 1	1.00
5.5c Star Route Truck 1	1.75
PC 1	1.50
PC 2	4.00
5.9c Bicycle 3, 4	15.00
PC 3, 4	25.00
PC 5, 6	80.00
6c Tricycle 1, reg or PC	1.50
PC 2	8.00
7.1c Tractor 1, PC 1	3.00
PC 1 "ZIP-4"	2.00
7.4c Baby Buggy 2	9.00
PC 2	5.00
7.6c Carrelia 1, 2	2.50
3	6.50
8.3c Ambulance 1, 2	1.50
PC 1, 2	2.00
PC 3, 4	5.00
B Press, 1	3.25
2	7.50
8.4c Wheelchair 1, 2	2.00
3	13.00
8.5c Tow Truck 1, reg or PC	2.50
PC 2	11.00
9.3c Axial Wagon 1, 2	12.50
3, 4	33.00
5, 6	250.00
PC 1, 2	20.00
PC 3	25.00
PC 3 or 5, Hash mark (PS/10)	45.00
PC 4	20.00
PC 5, 6	3.00
PC 8	180.00
10c Canal Boat 1 (Block tag)	1.50
1 overall tag (dull gum) F-VF	3.50
1 overall tag (dull gum) XF	5.00
1, 2 phos shiny gum F-VF	3.50
10c Tractor Tractor 1	2.00
10c Tractor Tractor groove 11, 22	2.25
(10c) Eagle, Shield	
A11111, A11112, A21112, A21113, A22112, A22113, A33333, A33335, A43324, A43325, M3326, M3334, M3335, A43426, A53335, A54444, A54445, A77777	

A88888, A99999	2.75
A88888, A99999, A10101010, A101101010, A101101011, A101101012, A110101010, A110101010, A110101010, A1111111010, A1111111011, A1211101010, A1411101010, A1411101011, A1412111110, A1412111111, S11111, S22222	
11111, 22222, 22222, 33333	3.50
11111 phosboxed (error)	30.00
22222 phosboxed (error)	15.00
22222 phosboxed (error) (XF, S2000)	150.00
A54424, A54426	5.00
A12213	20.00
A52333	200.00
A11 10 10 10 11	12.00
A33334	85.00
(10c) Auto Bulk Rate, S111	1.75
10.1c Oil Wagon 1	2.50
PC 1, 2	2.50
Red PC 2, 3	2.50
10.9c Horseshoe Cab 1, 2	28.00
PC 1, 2	30.00
3, 4 (PS/3 only)	250.00
11c Canoe 1, PC 1	3.50
Untagged PC 2	2.00
11c Steam 1, 2, 3, 4	2.00
12c Steam 1, 2	2.00
PC 1, 2	2.50
B Press PC 1	20.00
12.5c Postcard 1	2.65
2	4.50
PC 1 Light olive, Paper Illa	2.70
PC 1 Dark olive, Paper Illa	3.00
PC 2	5.00
13c Patrol Wagon 1	2.50
13.2c Coal Car 1, 2	2.50
14c (cabot) 1, 2, 3, 4	3.00
14c (cabot) B Press 2	3.00
15c Tugboat 1	2.00
Overall 1, Block 2	3.00
(15c) Tail Fin, Presat, S1111	2.25
(15c) Tail Fin, Presat, 11111 (BEP)	2.25
16.7c Popcorn 1, 2	3.00
17c Auto 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	2.00
6	12.00
7	5.00
PC 1C, 2C (F only)	6.00
PC 3A, 4A	3.50
PC 3A, 4A	3.50
PC 3B, 4B	22.00
PC 3C, 4C	7.00
PC 3BA, 4BA (PS/10)	23.00
PC 5A	5.00
PC 5B, 6B	18.25
PC 5AB, 7AB (PS/3) (SR)	13.00
PC 6A	13.00
PC 5C, 7C	24.00
PC 7A	12.00
17c Doghead 2	3.00
17.5c Racer 1, reg or PC	3.00
18c Sorey 1	76.00
2, 5, 6, 8, 17, 18	3.00

3, 4	63.75
7	90.00
9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16	12.50
13, 14	5.50
18c Flag 1	345.00
2 PS/5	40.00
2 PS/3	18.00
4	7.00
5	4.00
7	30.00
18c Wash. 1112, 3333	3.00
PC 11121	6.00
PC 33333	3.00
PC 33333 (dull gum, tagged)	5.75
PC 43444	7.00
19c Fishing Boat	
A1112	6.00
A1212, 11111, 2424, 5555, 5556, 6667	
7667, 7679, 7766, 7779, S111	4.00
A5555 untagged	10.00
20c Fire Pumper 1 PS/5	175.00
1 PS/3	50.00
3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 13, 15, 16	4.50
7, 8 (PS/5 F-VF only)	160.00
12, 14	8.00
6	35.00
11 PS/5	75.00
11 PS/3	29.00
20c Consumer Ed. 1, 2 PS/5	150.00
1, 2, 3, 4 PS/3	25.00
3, 4 PS/5	95.00
20c Flag 1 PS/5	70.00
1 PS/3	4.25
2, 11, 12	8.00
3	5.00
4 PS/3 only	33.50
5, 9, 10, 13, 14	4.00
6 PS/5	125.00
6 PS/3	69.00
8 PS/5	12.00
8 PS/3	3.00
12	7.50
PC 14	50.00
20c Official 1 PS/5	57.00
1 PS/3	11.00
20c Cable Car 1, 2 (Block)	3.00
Overall tagged 2	5.00
20c Cog Railway 1	3.00
20.5c Fire Engine 1	3.00
21c Rail Car 1, 2	3.00
21.1c 111111, plain and PC	3.00
111121 plain and PC	5.00
22c Flag 1, 7, 13 PS/5	14.00
1, 7, 13 PS/3	10.00
3 PS/5	48.00
3 PS/3	11.00
14	30.00
2, 8, 12, 15, 16, 19, 22, T1	3.00
4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 17, 18, 20, 21	5.50
(22c) "D" Eagle 1, 2	7.00
(22c) "D" Official 1 PS/3	32.50
23c Lunch Wagon 2, 3 (solid tag)	3.50

3 (mottled, dull or shiny)	3.50
23c Presat A111, 212	3.50
A222 far middle 2	3.50
A222 thin middle 2	4.00
A112, 122, 333	4.50
23c USA A1111, A2222, 1111 (shiny)	4.00
S111, 1111 (dull gum)	4.50
A2232, A2233, A3333, A4364, A4443, A4444, A4453	4.50
1111 phos (error)	40.00
24.1c Tandem 1	3.50
25c Broad Wagon 2, 3, 4	3.50
1, 5	4.00
25c Yosemite	
Block 1, 7, Phos 5, 15	6.00
Block 2, 3, 4, 5, 8	3.50
Block 9	9.00
Phos 1	40.00
Phos 6	12.00
Phos 2-3, 7-11, 13-14	3.50
(25c) "E" Earth 1211, 2222	4.25
1111, 1222	2.50
25c Honeybee 1, 2	3.50
1 Orig. full size	20.00
(25c) "G" Presat S11111	4.75
(25c) Juice Box, Presat S11111	4.00
(25c) Juice Box, Presat 11111 (BEP)	4.00
(29c) "F" Tub	
1111, 1222, 2222	3.50
1211	20.00
2211	5.00
29c Flower S1111, S2222	5.00
Six	5.00
S2222 (Perforated)	5.00
29c Mt. Rushmore Flag	
1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7	3.50
7 Toledo brown VF PS/3	127.50
5, 8	6.00
9	15.00
A11111, A22211	5.00
29c White House Flag 1-16, 18	4.50
29c UVM 1 (29c PS/5) (dull)	8.00
29c UVM 1 (32c PS/5) (shiny)	8.00
29c UVM Unisys A11	4.50
29c UVM 1 new font (29c PS/5) (dull)	8.00
29c UVM 1 new font (32c PS/5) (shiny)	8.00
29c Pine Cone PS/5, B1	4.50
29c Xmas, PS/8 V1111111	5.00
29c Lava PS/5 S81	4.50
29c Eagle PS/5 111	4.50
29c Liberty PS/5 D1111	4.50
29c Santa PS/5 V1111	4.50
32c "G" stamps	
A4432 6 PS/5	5.00
A1222, A1417, A2223, A2313	5.25
A1314, 3114, 3426	6.50
A4435	125.00
32c "G" PS/5 V11111	5.00
32c Flag 11111, 22222, 33333, 44444, S11111	
32c Porth V11111	5.00
32c Ferryboat 2	5.00
S1 Seaplane 1, 3	8.00

All stamps are guaranteed genuine and (unless otherwise noted) in VF condition. All stamps may be returned (within 30 days) for a complete refund, no questions asked. Some strips may be in limited supply. For XF, please add 25%.

TERMS: Cash with order, please. Ohio purchasers, please add 7% Cuyahoga County sales tax. Sorry, I do not accept credit cards.

STEPHEN G. ESRATI



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 E-Mail: StewStamps@AOL.com



VARIETIES
 I have varieties, some illustrated in the 1995 PNC Catalog, some left out. If you need plate cracks, gaps, low transfers, hash marks, all the stuff that makes PNC collecting interesting, drop me a note.
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Cover of the Bi-Month

By Richard L. Beecher

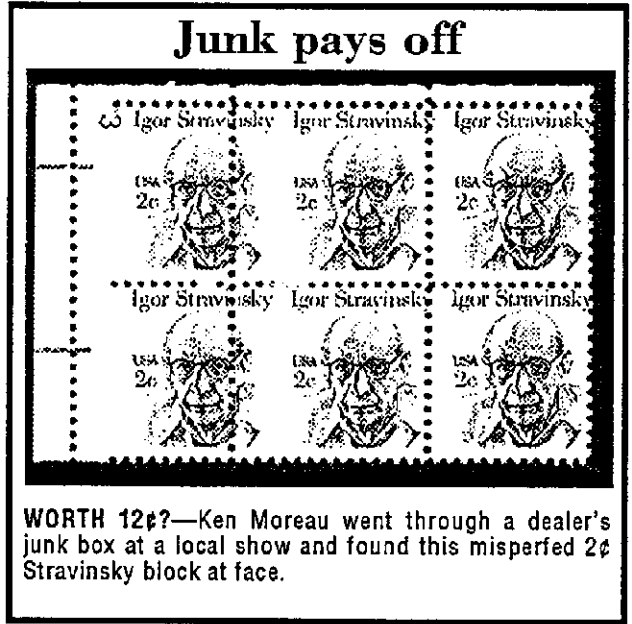
This cover, postmarked March 11, 1986, is franked with three Great Americans, including a strip of five of the A Press 39¢ Grenville Clark issue. The total postage of \$2.02 breaks down to 22¢ for postage and \$1.80 for insurance coverage from \$100.01 to \$150.

But what about the PRIORITY MAIL rubber stamp at the bottom of the envelope? If the mailer wanted this service, the cover is underfranked by \$2.18 (priority-mail service during this rate period cost \$2.40, less the 22 cents already paid).

Since there is no evidence in either side to attempt to collect postage due, my guess is that the marking was applied in error.

Stephen G. Esrati
P. O. Box 20130
Shaker Heights, OH 44120-0130

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The laugh is on USPS

Kitty Wunderly of APS has hung a nickname on the 32¢ Flag Over Field ATM stamp. She calls it "Flag Over Watermelon."

One look at the stamp, and you'll agree with her.

The information comes from Ken Lawrence's self-adhesives column in *Linn's*.

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